



## Lamoille County Planning Commission

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### Opening Ceremony and Ribbon Cutting for The Boardwalk at Barnes Camp

Morrisville, VT October 24, 2017

#### Press Release

On October 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 am, Governor Scott, Congressman Peter Welch and members of the Smugglers' Notch Partners will celebrate the opening of the Boardwalk at Barnes Camp Visitors' Center in Smugglers' Notch at Stowe. The five-foot-wide Boardwalk is approximately an eighth of a mile long and is a universally accessible portion of the Long Trail. The Boardwalk is built on spiral piers over a wetland and offers stunning, and previously unavailable views of the Notch.

Secretary of Transportation Joe Flynn stated that "We're very pleased and grateful that Senator Sanders obtained a generous Federal Highway earmark that has funded several projects to improve access to and enjoyment of Smugglers' Notch." The Federal grant funded about eighty percent of the construction costs. The remaining funds were provided by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, the Green Mountain Club, Spruce Peak Resort Association, Lamoille County Planning Commission and Lamoille Economic Development Corporation.

"The Boardwalk is a wonderful opportunity to make this beautiful parcel of state land newly available and accessible to Vermonters and visitors from around the World," said Mike Snyder Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation. The Boardwalk is situated near Barnes Camp--a historic building built in 1927-- which played a key role in the development of Vermont's outdoor recreation economy before the advent of ski lodges and resorts.

Mike DeBonis, Executive Director of the Green Mountain Club noted that, "Wheelchair users and through hikers alike can enjoy the unique wetland, interpretative panels and spectacular views on this fully accessible portion of the Long Trail." DeBonis added that the relocation of the Long Trail portion that connects to the Boardwalk will be completed in the Spring and hikers will be able to park at the Barnes Camp Visitors Center to hike over the Notch.

The Lamoille County Planning Commission served as project manager for the Boardwalk. Caleb Magoon, Board Chair said that "The Boardwalk at Barnes Camp was designed and construction with careful attention to the sensitive environment of Smugglers Notch. The walkway is elevated on helical piers specially designed to minimize ecological impacts in sensitive areas such as wetlands, marshes, bogs, and lakeshores."

Remarks by the Governor, Congressman Welch and members of the Smugglers Notch Partners will be followed by a Ribbon Cutting and tour of the Boardwalk led by Josh Ryan of Timber and Stone who constructed the Boardwalk and Seth Jensen, Senior Planner at the Lamoille County Planning Commission.

For more information contact:

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