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News

Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York sell Camp Little Notch

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By Danielle Sanzone
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COLONIE — Camp Little Notch, a Girl Scout camp that has been in operation since the 1930s, has been sold.

The Open Space Institute announced the acquisition of the 2,346-acre property in the southeastern corner of the Adirondack Park.

Now that the transaction is finalized, the Institute plans to sell about 400 acres to the Friends of Camp Little Notch, a nonprofit created by former campers, counselors and supporters. Its plan is to open part of the camp again this summer, said Julie Dye, a board member of the group.

The area they plan to purchase includes some lakeside property, a pond, and the camp facility. In a prior interview, she estimated that about \$2 million would need to be raised in order to make the purchase, build a national wilderness center, and form an endowment.

The remainder of the land will be sold to an unidentified timber company that will sustain and manage the forestland on the property, said OSI president Joe Martens, noting that this would create jobs and tax revenue for the town of Fort Ann.

“Camp Little Notch has been an important recreational and educational facility for seven decades,” said OSI President Joe Martens. “OSC’s acquisition of Camp Little Notch ensures the long-term protection of an important ecological corridor, promotes sustainable forestry and provides for its continued use as a recreational and educational resource. This project is a win-win for the environment and the economy of the Adirondack Park.”

The Open Space Conservancy, the OSI’s land acquisition affiliate, officially purchased the property after months of discussions between the Conservancy and the Girl Scout Council of Northeastern New York.

“We’re excited about it,” said Dye, who went to the camp from 1984 to 1995 as a camper and a counselor. “This land will be used by the residents of the state of New York, and the whole community, including our children. It’s important for them to appreciate the outdoors so they learn to preserve it when they are grown up.”

Camp Little Notch and the surrounding forestlands are dominated by northern hardwoods, an 80-acre lake that is drained by Mount Hope Brook, and a variety of rustic camp structures. Its lands are an ideal habitat for a variety of Adirondack flora and fauna, including black bear. The property contains numerous trails, wood roads and historic resources, including the remnants of an iron mining community and a 19th century blast furnace, officials said.

“The Open Space Institute will do great things with the site,” said Gloria Baker, a spokeswoman for the Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York. “We are excited about their developing site plans and moving forward so the plans will be a reality.”

In a prior interview, the Girl Scout organization said they were selling the property for \$3.95 million when a tentative agreement was made this past summer.

The camp, put on the market last November, has been closed since 2008.

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