

LAKE PLACID NEWS

Rotary eyes bus shelters for 3 stops



Bus stop on Saranac Avenue near Whiteface Inn Lane (News photo — Andy Flynn)

LAKE PLACID — The Rotary Club of Lake Placid is seeking the public's support to build three bus shelters in the village used by residents and visitors riding the Placid XPRSS trolleys.

The shelters would be located at Cascade Acres and the Four Seasons apartments on state Route 73 and the former 1,000 Animals plaza on Saranac Avenue near the Whiteface Inn Lane. Essex County operates the trolley system, and the stops are located on private property.

Eight civil engineering students and two faculty members at Clarkson University in Potsdam, under the direction of professor Erik Backus, worked on the bus shelter design for their capstone project. The final design is an Adirondack- or Craftsman-style structure made of wood and topped with an aluminum roof. A bus shelter in Shelburne, Vermont, was used as an inspiration for the design.

The projected costs of the three shelters range from \$19,000 for pressure-treated wood with Plexiglass to \$33,000 for cedar with tempered glass.

Rotary Club members approached Lake Placid/North Elba Community Development Commission Chairman Dean Dietrich about the project, and he connected them with Backus at Clarkson. The plans were presented to Rotary Club members in the spring, almost two years after Rotarians Heather Perkins and Martha Spear began working on the project.



Bus stop on Route 73 at Cascade Acres (News photo — Andy Flynn)

“We were trying to think of community projects, things that would benefit the community, in July or August two years ago,” Perkins said. “So Martha and I really started working on it then.”

According to the design summary document, the project was requested to improve the safety and comfort of Lake Placid’s public transportation system for residents and visitors expected from future large events, such as the 2023 FISU Winter World University Games. The shelters are designed to be used year-round.

Amenities in the bus shelters include portable wireless routers, solar charging stations for Apple and Android smartphones and trash bins.

“At the bus stops, we would see people out in the rain or snow or even in the sun with no shelter,” Perkins said, explaining that the shelters would be used year-round. “We’re doing something to improve the community and make life better for the people in the community, but we’re not looking to be responsible for these.”

The Rotary Club would raise money and have the shelters built and then donate them to an organization that would maintain them, possibly the village of Lake Placid or town of North Elba.



Bus stop on Sentinel Road near the Four Seasons apartments (News photo — Andy Flynn)

More work needs to be done before money is raised and shelters are built. The Rotary Club still needs to work out details with property owners and village, town and county officials before submitting plans for approval with the Lake Placid-North Elba Joint Review Board.

For more information on the bus shelter project, visit <https://rotarylakeplacid.org/SitePage/bus-shelter-project>.
