

**Mount Sunapee Advisory Committee Meeting (Approved on 06/03/14)
June 11, 2013 at Veteran's Hall, Newbury NH**

Committee members present:

Jeffrey Rose, Commissioner DRED
Director Phil Bryce, Division of Parks and Recreation
Tim Drew, Dept of Environmental Services
June Fichter, Lake Sunapee Protective Assn.
Sabrina Stanwood, Division of Forests and Lands
Nancy Marashio, Society for the Protection of NH Forests
Nate Miller, UVLSRPC
Dan Wolf, Town of Newbury

Members absent:

Melanie Bell, Town of Goshen
Jen Tockman, Chamber of Commerce

Welcome and Introductions. Commissioner Rose welcomed the committee members and the audience. Members and attendees introduced themselves.

Acceptance of minutes. Mr. Wolf motioned to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Marashio seconded; motion adopted.

Old Business. There was no old business.

New Business: Mount Sunapee Resort Annual Operating Plan 2013-2014

Mr. Gamble began the presentation by saying the plan looks very much the same as it has in past years because the business is essentially the same. His presentation will focus on what is new.

Summer Program – Changing the name from “Alpine Adventure Park” to “Adventure Park” to take in all the activities being offered. The resort will be offering two one week summer camps in mid-July in response to community requests.

Mountain Bike Trail Construction – The towns of Goshen and Newbury have approved the construction of the trail.

Dogs – They will be restricted due to the expansion of summer activities. Last year they were successful in reaching out to dog owners to keep their dogs on leash and to clean up after their pets.

Mountain Mucker – New “boutique event” held in early June by contract with organizers. 640 participants. It is much smaller than the “Tough Mudder” held at Gunstock that hosts 14,000 riders.

Winter Activities – This section was mostly updating information, no changes proposed. 5 year average is 260,000 skier visits.

Waffle Cabin (p.17) – New concessionaire located near Sunapee Lodge. Winter operations only, temporary building, contract is for 20% of gross sales.

Security Cameras (p.21) – Installed 30-40 cameras in the last 5 years; snow board thefts have decreased from 30-40 a year to just a few.

Q: Director Bryce – Is it individuals or a crime ring?

A: Mr. Gamble – Usually individuals, people wanting to upgrade their gear.

Emergency Operating Plan – Updated twice a year and provided to the town of Newbury and DRED.

Environmental Management Plan – Small changes, mostly updating. In May 2013 submitted a permit renewal application for the sewage lagoons.

Air Quality (p.28) – All diesel compressors are retired and relinquishing their permits to operate them.

Archeological/Historical Resources (p.30) – The resort was contacted by the Newbury Historic & Cemetery Commission about a newly rediscovered burial site in the leasehold. It is located in an area that is not proposed for development.

Energy Conservation and Management (p.30) – Proposing to replace the 50 yr old boiler in the Spruce Lodge, estimated cost \$60,000.

Utilities and Roads (p.33) – Fiber optic cable now installed at the resort. Took advantage of work being done by Verizon on the cell tower to upgrade.

Q: Ms. Marashio – Will the tower remain the same height?

A: Mr. Gamble – Yes.

Master Development Plan Implementation (p. 34) - \$840,000 of improvements planned. Spring 2014 two new loops will be added to the aerial challenge course and approximately 1,550 sq ft added to the competition center.

Ski Trail Improvements (p.35) – Nothing proposed, the permits for the Upper Ridge Trail have expired, but the Resort is still interested in developing in the future.

Mr. Gamble ended his presentation and Commissioner Rose asked if there were any questions from the Committee.

Ms. Fitcher – p.6, There have been concerns in the past that the resort was a “wet mountain” and that is why mountain biking has been prohibited, what has changed?

Mr. Gamble – It is a wet mountain and he is going to make sure the design and engineering minimizes erosion and impacts.

Ms. Fitcher – In your presentation about the lagoons, it sounds like there is plenty of headroom now, how will predicted climate change increase the storage capacity?

Mr. Gamble – The resort has been carefully monitoring input and output at the lagoons for years. The lagoons were designed to have 50% meteorological input; of the remaining 50%, the resort is using 25% with another 25% unused. Metering has determined that meteorological input is running 10% above design. Continued conservation measures are being implemented to reduce the Resort load on the lagoons.

Director Bryce – Looking at the new hiking trail map, it looks like a trail deadends; is it a lift served trail head?

Mr. Gamble – yes. Trail use is complimentary, however, if you want to ride the lift and walk down the fee is \$5.00.

Ms. Fitcher – Do you have an app for the trail system?

Mr. Gamble – It's in the planning stage, there are new options all the time.

Commissioner Rose – What percent of the area is covered by snowmaking?

Mr. Gamble – 97-98%

Ms. Stanwood – What is the width of the hiking trails and are they handicapped accessible?

Mr. Gamble – The trails will not be advertized as accessible, they are not very wide, like wood trails.

Ms. Stanwood – Is the treadway pervious or impervious?

Mr. Gamble – The Segway trails will be gravel base, the woods trails will be soil. There are lots of agricultural remnants in the area, thinking about adding some interpretive signage.

Ms. Stanwood – How will the trails be used? Will geocaching be allowed?

Mr. Gamble – The trail is being promoted as a nature walk. Would like users to stay on the trail.

Ms. Marashio – Attended the planning board meeting and the Resort did an excellent presentation.

Mr. Miller – on p.17, how do you interpret the right to deny groups and organizations?

Mr. Gamble – The lease says that the Resort has exclusive business rights and can control the activities in the leasehold. The Resort works with State Parks if there is a group that wants to use the park and needs to use some of the leasehold.

Mr. Drew – Shared that he's done some research on dog stations and can share with Mr. Gamble. He also has info on Spruce Lodge renovation.

Mr. Gold, SRK Greenway Coalition – There are 3 trail organizations that maintain trails in the park and the leasehold. The summit trail is the only trail in the leasehold. Wear and tear is increasing on the trail as summer activities increase at the resort. The Resort has been helpful with signage and maps.

Director Bryce – Noted on the plan that trail construction will follow trails bureau and forest service guidelines. Will the Resort do the trail maintenance itself?

Mr. Gamble – Yes, the Resort will do 100% of the trail maintenance of the new hiking trails.

Ms. Marashio – Anything new on stormwater management to protect Beck Brook?

Mr. Gamble – The LSPA applied for a grant but did not receive funding. The Resort will continue with it's maintenance practices such as spring parking lot sweeping and maintenance of the swale. The grant application included manpower & equipment from the Resort with funding from the grant for materials and engineering. Grant request was for \$70,000.

Commissioner Rose closed the question and answer session. Comments are due to DRED by 4:00 pm on June 24, 2013.

Mount Sunapee Update – Mr. Gamble offered that for budgeting purposes, the revenue estimates provided several weeks ago can be adjusted slightly upwards. He also shared that the upgrade to the fiber optic system will allow the upgrading of servers and computers and the Resort; \$70,000/year for two years has been budgeted.

There was a general discussion on QR coded and their use in a natural area as guides and information about the area.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55

Respectfully Submitted, Johanna Lyons