

Cannon Mountain Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: June 21, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Franconia Notch State Park Headquarters

Attendance

Members Present: Monica Mezzapelle, Senator Carrie Gendreau, Representative Suzanne Vail, Frank MacConnell, Susan Ford, Representative Mike Ouellet

Others Present: Jace Wirth, Director Brian Wilson, David Webster (Scribe)

Introduction of Goals from Last CMAC Meeting

Jace reviewed the goals set during the previous CMAC meeting, spotlighting the Cannon Mountain Capital Improvement Fund's (CMCIF) projected available funds and his intentions to secure authorization for \$1.083 million for capital improvements, part of which includes a 50% match from a Land Water Conservation Fund grant. The committee outlined their objectives for this session, focusing on effective fund utilization and strategic planning.

Explanation by Brian on LWCF Fund

Brian elaborated on the potential use of LWCF funds, specifically earmarking them for snowmaking enhancements at Cannon Mountain. He underscored the importance of leveraging these funds creatively to maximize capital funding opportunities.

Discussion on Immediate Funding Requests

Jace introduced the immediate funding requests outlined in the meeting packet. Frank MacConnell accepted the review of these requests and emphasized exploring partnerships with the State Legislature to supplement capital funds. There was a discussion on capitalization criteria, with Jace leading the review on alignment with CMAC guidelines and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Representative Ouellet raised the possibility of a donation of UTVs. Brian explained that while this option had been explored, there were limitations. He mentioned leveraging existing marketing agreements to potentially support fleet updates. Representative Vail suggested exploring involvement from federal delegations to secure additional fund allocations, expanding statutory limits to accommodate diverse capital needs. Monica expressed concerns about bonding for items with a lifespan of less than 20 years, citing statutory limitations that could impact financial planning decisions. Representative Ford noted her concern and the urgency of funding and completing these projects as it relates to employee health, safety and satisfaction. Jace provided a detailed line-by-line review of immediate needs (project items 1-10) and proposed the inclusion of Requests for Bids (RFBs) and Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to refine capital planning processes. Frank questioned whether all listed projects could be bundled together for bonding purposes. Brian explained the challenges of justifying bonding across diverse project categories, emphasizing the need for a strategic approach. Representative Vail highlighted the importance of legislative support to expand

statutory limits, facilitating more flexible funding options for Cannon Mountain's critical infrastructure needs.

Long Term Capital Plan Preview

Jace presented a rough draft version of Cannon Mountain's long-term capital strategy, including discussions on the near-term need to renovate the lodges, explore the replacement of the aging lift infrastructure, and both the financial pacing required operationally as well as access to additional funding sources needed to overcome the scale of deferred maintenance and investment in the mountain's infrastructure. Jace indicated this is the first step toward his development of a comprehensive 14-year program with a focus on revitalizing the mountain.

Motion and Approval of Immediate Projects

After adjustments and clarifications, a motion was made to recommend funding for items 2-6 of the presented capital plan by Frank MacConnell, seconded by Representative Suzanne Vail, and the motion was passed unanimously. Those projects are as follows:

- \$190,000 Asphalt shingle roof repairs on Notchview and Brookside lodges
- \$453,000 Slopes Pipe Replacement - Peabody pipe - Main line 12" replace.
- \$30,000 Peabody lift bullwheel bearings replacement
- \$178,000 Peabody lift communications line replacement
- \$85,000 Eagle Cliff lift gear box rebuild

Election and Scheduling

- **Vice Chair Appointment:** Discussion was held regarding the election of Vice Chair, with a decision postponed to the next meeting.
- **Next Meeting:** The committee scheduled the next meeting for November 15th, 2024, which was unanimously approved.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Frank McConnell moved to approve the minutes from April 26th, 2024 subject to the correction of the correct spelling of Senator Chandley's last name. Representative Vail seconded, and the motion passed.

Closure

Senator Carrie Gendreau moved to close the meeting, seconded by Representative Vail emphasizing the need to continue discussions on legislative advocacy and funding strategies in future sessions. The motion passed, and the meeting concluded.