

Monadnock Advisory Commission

Minutes for Thursday, November 13, 2025

1. Welcome & roll call

Members or designees present:

Katy Wardlaw (Dublin -Acting) Chair
Sterling Abram (Dublin)
Terry Maugery (Marlborough)
Dave Adams (Troy)
Dan Rogalski (Marlborough)
John Smith (Jaffrey)
Matt Scaccia (designee for SPNHF)
Hiel Lindquist (Fitzwilliam)
Tara Blaney (designee for DNCR)
Carrie Deegan (designee for SPNHF)
Paul Kotila (Fitzwilliam)

Non-members present:

Will Kirkpatrick (MSP)
Peter Palmiotto (Antioch - MERE)
Hallel Parsons (MSP)
Sherri St. Laurent (Inn at East Hill Farm)
Jim Legee (DNCR)

Members not present:

Don Upton (Troy)
Bill Elliot (Jaffrey)
Brian Hotz (SPNHF)
Scott Rolfe (NH F&L)
DNCR Director (position open)

2. Review of minutes from previous meeting – 4/10/25

Corrections made of adding of Paul Kotila's name as present and changing the description of Dublin and Marlboro trailheads from "inaccessible" to "not maintained for winter". With those corrections, minutes were approved (motioned – Katie. Second – Sterling).

3. MAC Treasurer's report & update

Currently \$2559.13, no expenditures since last meeting. Will has had rigging equipment in mind, but hasn't yet put together an order to submit to MAC.

4. Monadnock State Park update

Manager's Report handed out, reviewed highlights. Summer started with a lot of rain (13 straight weekends with at least 1 rainy day), but the second half and the Fall were great hiking weather and made up the difference. Great year for retail, met all goals that we set. TRAFx trail counters up and running at Rhodo and Gap South since June, the third had some issues and didn't get placed until September at the Marlboro Trail. Nice to have actual numbers rather than estimating usage by Iron Ranger fees – we have far more people than those that pay. (Dan noticed that the incorrect number was used for Marlboro, this will be corrected). We had a staff person at Rhodo making counts to compare to the TRAFx counter, and they were close (within 8%). I may take Gap S and Marlboro down for the winter as they are difficult to access.

Suggestion from Hiel to put a TRAFx trail counter on the M-M trail headed north from Gap N. parking – to see how many people use that trail when turned away on busy weekends.

All the Iron Ranger income was down this year, not sure why. No way to tell how much is usage variation vs economic issues, or something else. People don't carry cash much anymore.

Suggestion to make QR code to put on OTR iron rangers that will lead directly to the OTR fund.

Did a lot with Trails this year – Trails Week (see below), 3 SCA crews doing rock step repair on the White Cross trail, and Liam Hopper our staff trail-crew leader. Tough staffing year, I wasn't able to send many staff off with him, so he stuck to smaller projects, but he did a lot.

Mtn Patrol – rescues were way down for some reason. No way to know why, but we were grateful for it.

Staffing started off great, we were fully staffed, but as the season progressed we lost some as we always do, were struggling a bit by Foliage Season. But the staff we have were great, and were up to the challenge.

Question (Katy) – noticed a lot of Ash trees had to be removed. What's the status for Beech trees? Not sure – they were hit pretty hard by the leaf blight, we're waiting to see how many come back after the winter. If they die, we'll take out anything that's a hazard, otherwise they stay in place as wildlife habitat.

Did the sale of property by OTR to SPNHF go through? Yes, it did. Figuring out what we want to do and when. Possible expansion of parking area, but at least it's a buffer between the trailhead and future development.

5. Division of Parks & Recreation update

DNCR Commissioner Sarah Stewart gave her notice, she won't seek to be reappointed after her term ends on 6/2/26. She gave a long notice in hopes of some overlap with the new commissioner to help train the incoming appointee.

New RTP grants awarded for Parks to use for SCA crew hitches to work on Monadnock.

Poole reservoir: Town of Jaffrey is working with American Rivers to remove the dam. Has always been behind fence as a backup water supply, but is not needed and the Dam needs repair, is becoming a safety issue. American Rivers has a private donor and is applying for an ARM (Aquatic Resource Mitigation) grant to help fund the project. Jaffrey had opened the relief valve, the water is now drained.

Jaffrey wants to give the land that the dam occupies to DNCR. They will keep their land around the water tank behind the second parking lot.

Sticky point – ARM fund requires protection of the land, and DNCR does not like to take land that is encumbered. Tricky because who will hold the easement (typically that would be the state, which would be the state enforcing itself). Not sure which way that will go right now, had a meeting today. DES and F&G are part of the project. Everybody involved thinks it's good project, so we're hopeful.

No cost estimate yet, still in the planning phase. Coming up on 60% design phase. Funding recommendations scheduled to be developed November 20, presented to NH Wetland Council on 11/29.

Looking to start next year but could be the following year.

Once the work is done, the surrounding land will still be considered a wetland by soil type (Vegetation type and topography figure in too).

End goal is that there might be a viewing platform, informational display or something along those lines. Meade Brook has a surprisingly good population of native Brook Trout, so the aim is to restore the habitat between upstream and downstream fish. Also remove the safety hazard and on-going maintenance costs of the Dam for the Town.

Still no Director of Parks, the search goes on.

6. Societies for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests update

Lots of projects:

AMC crew was at Gap Mtn S. for 3 weeks to do a re-route (started during MTW). They ran into ledge and had to alter the layout, so weren't able to finish. Hope to finish this next year.

Monadnock Garden Club: Project on their Nature Trail to plant 100 native plants for their 100th anniversary. Required a lot of jugs of water!

Monadnock 5-year Trail maintenance Plan is going well, DNCR and SPNHF did a joint assessment on the Marlboro Tr and SPNHF assessed Monta Rosa and White Arrow.

MTW was in early September – 50 volunteers - 775 hours of service by staff (SPNHF and DNCR), trail crew leaders, and volunteers. Did a lot of Level 1 maintenance on Marlboro, Dublin, Royce, and Parker Trail. Bigger projects clearing water bars, building steps on Marlboro, and the start of the trail relocation on Gap. REI had staff come help, and Trailwrites. Good publicity with the Keene Sentinel, who put together a great video. Here is the link: [Volunteers help maintain local trails | Multimedia | keenesentinel.com](#)

Harvest updates: Finished harvest along Dublin Trail.

This winter planning on finally doing the Demonstration Harvest along the Marlboro Trail. May need to close the trail for part of it. Will use landing closest to the maintained section of road. Trucks will be going in and out, but actual parking area won't be plowed, signed "no parking". Will have educational installments along the trail to describe different forestry practices.

Also another harvest at Gap – area of Ash off of Cobleigh Hill Rd. Hoping to compare Ash regeneration from harvested vs unharvested area.

Next year is SPNHF's 125th Anniversary, planning some kind of events, probably one at Monadnock (could be rolled into MTW)

Monadnock Natural History Conference is happening November 15 at KSC. Lots of interesting talks about natural history in the region. Every 3 years, except they skipped the last few so this will be the first in a while.

7. Division of Forests and Lands update

Unable to attend in person but sent update for Will to read:

“The forest management project at Monadnock State Park was successfully completed this past winter, with project closeout finalized in June.

This project was a true team effort, and its success reflects the dedication, communication, and collaboration of everyone involved.

Thank you to all who contributed from the Parks staff at the Old Toll Road/Halfway House Trailhead who kept hikers informed, to those who helped ensure the work went smoothly from start to finish.

Thank you to SPNHF and **Wendy Weisiger**, for her guidance and approval of road access and closeout.

Clay Hollister shared his appreciation for how well the project went and how secure the road conditions remained throughout.”

Rhodo operation is still ongoing. Said they would fix the drainage on Widow Gage Rd, they need to build a berm so water doesn't flow down the road. Will check with them to be sure.

8. MERE update

Looking for a grad student for the spring, hopefully to serve as a Summit Steward. If none is found Will will try to connect SCA interns with Peter to see how they can help, include MERE info in their repertoire.

Peter continues to work on the Monadnock Region Natural History Conference mentioned above.

9. Open Floor/ New business

Sterling - Pumpelly Trail developments: Sometime in the summer a real estate sign went up on the property. Sterling contacted Brian (SPNHF) right away to see if they could make something happen, but a neighbor had already beaten them to it. She was away in Europe, not available. The Caretaker met with them – she has no intention of shutting it down, is sympathetic and very interested in the management of the mountain. Sterling thinks we have a good ally.

Brian thought that something off Upper Jaffrey Rd would be the best option for a parking area (and new trailhead), but Pumpelly Trail landowner is very willing to keep right-of-way enact...but not if the access is through Upper Jaffrey Rd, only if it's from Lake Rd..

There's a deed restriction that any neighbor can enforce about any future development along Lake Rd...so no parking area could go there without a bigger Town decision.

Opportunity to put a TRAFx counter on Pumpelly to see what traffic is really like. Needs landowner permission, Will will follow up with Sterling. Sounds like the landowner and her sons are likely to be supportive and interested.

Terry - Causeway at Perkin's Pond: they're going to close it entirely for two months next summer. That will affect traffic to the mountain quite a bit.

Katy – Harrisville Wooley Adelgid beetle update. They are trying to grow a population of these. Katy (on Cons Com of Dublin) is trying to get people together who might be interested in trying this. Harry Wolhandler (Harrisville) is interested in selling their beetles to surrounding

towns (\$8/beetle). Come in lots of 300. Garden club in Dublin said they might pay for one of the lots if they can find the Adelgid in the area (they haven't yet, which is good).

Last Tuesday they did a release of 3 lots. Dublin didn't get in on that one, but is thinking about the next in the Spring.

Dan: they've done something like this before with ladybugs, now we have a million of them. Katy: this seems to be different, they are a native (To US) beetle, and have been helping with the Adelgid.

10. Set date for next meeting

April 16, 2026, 4:00-6:00pm at the Inn at East Hill Farm.

11. Adjourn

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