

Cannon Mountain Advisory Commission
Spring Meeting Minutes // April 18, 2022 // 10 AM @ Park HQ

CMAC Chairman Terry Penner called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Introductions

CMAC members present were... Terry Penner (Chair), Frank MacConnell (Vice Chair), Senator Erin Hennessey, Representative Joyce Weston, State Treasurer Monica Mezzapelle, and Thad Presby. CMAC members absent were... Senator William Gannon, Representative Michael Gunski, Richard McLeod, and Jon Tholl. Non-members in attendance were... NH Parks & Recreation Director Philip Bryce, Cannon-FNSP General Manager John DeVivo (scribe), and Peter Kailey (member of the public).

Review / approval of November 8, 2021 DRAFT minutes

Approval of the November 8, 2021 meeting minutes was moved by Senator Hennessey and seconded by Vice Chair MacConnell. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

Review of winter season and performance (DeVivo)

- Slow start / strong middle / L O N G and slow monthlong taper
- Ski season revenue should finish double digits ahead of last year and 10-year average
- Skier visits were 12% off of last year and 9% off of the 10-year average
- Our model is working – lower visits and higher revenues mean for a better overall experience

- Expenses were also way off the chart – everything is more expensive
- Labor shortages were incredibly challenging
- We'll be going to the Fiscal Committee for a budget adjustment
- We'll very likely finish net positive again in FY22

- Season pass revenue has fallen behind last year; we're working on addressing that
- Biggest fiscal challenges expected in FY23... energy rates and holiday pay for Class 50's
- Marketing contract goes out to bid soon; joint contract to include Cannon and NH Parks & Rec

Spring outlook for 2022 (DeVivo)

- We expect a very strong spring-summer-fall season
- We hope to find enough labor
- Tram will increase per trip number this summer / \$3 window rate surcharge
- Beach will per day capacity this summer
- Flume Gorge will maintain hourly number this summer / \$3 window rate surcharge
- LPCG is back at full operation, all sites in use
- HIT Squad will be ready for increased hiker traffic with return of Canadians
- Phil (Bryce) goes to Fiscal Comm for approval on paid hiker parking
- Paid hiker shuttle returns this summer

Review of ongoing projects (DeVivo)

- Fire suppression project... final punchlist items still ongoing
- Septic upgrade @ summit... still an ongoing discussion with DES
- \$400K track cable relocation postponed to mid-October
 - No problem expected with NH Aerial Tramway Safety Board approval on that

Discussion of 1-3-5-10 year planning (Bryce / DeVivo)

- Senator Hennessey reminded (DeVivo and Bryce) that they'd agreed to make the presentation of this a priority; Bryce pointed out that the existing document is extremely complex and needs ample updating, and that doing so has taken a back seat to working on the Tram replacement discussion. An agreement was reached that DeVivo and the Cannon Ops team will provide a much more streamlined depiction of existing 1-3-5 year needs at the Fall

2022 CMAC meeting, and will be coming back to the CMAC in (June/July) with a few key projects for discussion for prospective completion in the fall. "Projects such as"... a main (snowmaking) line section replacement, grips for the Cannonball Quad, and a boiler system for Peabody Lodge.

Discussion of CMCIF fund balance (Bryce / DeVivo)

- End of FY21 @ \$400K was available... needed in full in FY22
- End of FY22 estimated at \$285K last fall (may be higher)
- End of FY23 estimated at \$254K last fall (may be higher)

Two questions arose...

- Is there in fact \$450K currently available in addition to the \$400K earmarked for the Tram project?
- What has become of the \$1.2M request for the ongoing summit septic project discussion?
 - Bonded or not bonded?
 - Relevant to current CMCIF numbers?
 - Possible to use ARPA funding instead?

DeVivo will get together with the Deputy State Treasurer and DNCR Chief of Admin to get those answers and report back to the group in advance of the (prospective) summer meeting to discuss other key projects.

Discussion of potential critical need projects this coming summer/fall (DeVivo)

- Three necessary pipe projects (Avalanche / Gremlin / Main line)
- Boiler system may need immediate replacement @ Peabody
- Grips may need immediate replacement on the Cannonball Quad

Tram (replacement / overhaul) update (DeVivo)

- Phil Bryce had left, but DeVivo detailed the ongoing discussion between (Commissioner Stewart and Director Bryce) and the Governor's Office relative to the Tram system replacement (with either a Tram system or a Gondola system) and the associated costs. Senator Hennessey mentioned that her research / project group in Concord had been having ongoing discussions with the Governor's Office relative to a \$25M figure and a Tram replacement with a Tram system, and that she'd reach out directly to (either Stewart or Bryce) that afternoon.

New & Old Business

- Potential for a meeting / vote request this summer for summer/fall projects

DeVivo mentioned the possibility of a Zoom meeting, but it was pointed out that CMAC meetings are to be held in person by ongoing statute, so the possibility of a more central location may be sought, such as the DNCR office in Concord, for a summer meeting to discuss the aforementioned project possibilities.

An agreement was reached between Chairman Penner and DeVivo that DeVivo would research the CMCIF questions and get back to the group on it, and that DeVivo would reach out to Penner with proposed dates for the summer meeting.

NOTE: Confirmation received on May 20th from the DNCR Business Office and the State Treasurer's Office that both the \$1.2M toward the summit septic project and the \$400K toward the Tram track cable relocation project are accounted for in the current CMCIF model, and there is \$450K available for the (three) soon-to-be-discussed Fall 2022 (prospective) projects.

Set fall meeting date

- Chairman Penner set the date for the fall meeting as Monday, November 14th.

Adjournment

- Chairman Penner asked for a motion to adjourn. Thad Presby motioned and Senator Hennessey seconded. The motion passed unanimously and Chairman Penner adjourned the meeting at 12:13 PM.