

MAC Meeting Minutes

Date: April 21, 2022

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Monadnock State Park Pavilion.

ATTENDEES	AGENDA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ann Royce (Town of Jaffrey)	1. Welcome & roll call
<input type="checkbox"/> Brian Hotz (SPNHF)	2. Review of minutes from previous meeting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carrie Deegan (SPNHF)	3. Treasurer's report & update
<input type="checkbox"/> Dan Rogalski (Town of Marlborough)	4. Societies for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests update
<input type="checkbox"/> Dave Adams (Town of Troy)	5. Division of Parks & Recreation update
<input type="checkbox"/> Don Upton (Town of Troy)	6. Division of Forests and Lands update
<input type="checkbox"/> Hiel Lundquist (Town of Fitzwilliam)	7. MERE update
<input type="checkbox"/> John Smith (Town of Jaffrey)	8. Open Floor/ New
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Katy Wardlaw (Town of Dublin)	9. Set date for next meeting business
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Matt Scaccia (SPNHF)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Peter Palmiotto (Antioch, MERE)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Bryce (Parks & Recreation)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robin Blais (Chair, Town of Fitzwilliam)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Rolfe (Forests and Lands)	Guests:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sterling Abram (Town of Dublin)	Mary Shotton – Monadnock State Park
<input type="checkbox"/> Tara Blaney (Parks & Recreation)	Gabe Roxby - SPNHF
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Terry Maugeri (Town of Marlborough)	Tyler Comte – Forests and Lands
<input type="checkbox"/> Wendy Weisiger (SPNHF)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Will Kirkpatrick (Monadnock State Park)	

1. Welcome & roll call

No quorum, only 8 official members.

Welcome Terry Maugeri, new member for the Town of Marlborough! Our roster is officially full again.

2. Review of minutes from previous meeting – 11/18/2021

Did not approve (no quorum)

3. Treasurer's report & update

Ann: Bank said the account is "invalid", need to start a new account – \$50 fee. We are currently paying a \$3 monthly fee. With no income or withdrawals, previous balance was \$2758, now \$2743.

Will can definitely find uses for the money, and being spring now we will start to get offers for donations, which will be directed to the MAC (no rescue activity over winter, so nothing happened in this area since last meeting).

Ann and Dan (taking over as treasurer) will look into other account options.

4. Societies for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests update

Carrie: Updated lease with DNCR – 5-year lease, with an option to renew twice (so could last us 15 years). Mostly just updated language, but a few added items:

- Attention to Co-branding was added
- A 5-year trail management plan. MAC will get to review.

Q: Does SPNHF maintain all the trails on the mountain? A: No, Parks manages the land as part of the lease. SPNHF and Parks collaborate on trails – MTW, Pro crews, SCA crews

Q: Any new developments at Pumpelly Trailhead? A: Dublin has put up No Parking signs on the lake-side, that’s all so far. There were talks about developing a new trailhead elsewhere (see 11/18/21 meeting), still working on that.

Projected budget from Old Toll Rd account (handout):

Balance as of 4/18/22:	\$161,091.10
Projected FY23 expenses	
Monadnock Trails Week	(\$15,000)
Marlboro Trail SCA Crew, 4 wks – match on RPT grant	(\$4,400)
Marlboro Trail AMC Crew, 4-5 weeks	(\$26,000)
Gap Mtn Bridge	(\$4,000)
Marlboro Trail Interpretive Signage	(\$600)
Mobile Trail App Interpretive Trail Outings	(\$1,200)
Volunteer Trail Maintainer Support	(\$1,500)
Other (5-year trail planning, MAC, Misc expenses)	(\$2,000)
TOTAL Projected Expenses:	(\$50,700)
Projected FY23 Revenue	\$35,000
Projected Balance End FY23	\$145,391

Updated Iron Ranger signs – ultra-simple – for Marlboro, Dublin, and Gap trailheads. Will post soon.

Gabe: Update on timber cuts. 6 different management plans (plus one, the ecological reserve, which won’t involve any cutting) – a lot of planning. Implemented 3 harvests on the west side “Stowell Lots”: Winter 2017, Fall 2018, and Winter 2018-19. 1 more planned for Marlboro Trail this winter:

- 80 Acres – various techniques used in areal throughout that 80, it won’t all be cut.
- Cutting right up to the trail in areas – the intent is to use as an educational opportunity, with interpretive signs, to teach public the why’s and how’s of forest management, expected results, economics, etc.
- Printed new kiosk poster for trailhead, going up in a couple weeks
- Q: Will this shut down the trail? A: will have to when cutting within 2 tree-lengths, but can coordinate with Park on that. But not for the whole operation, the point is for the public to be able to see the work.
- Q: Will it be visible from the trail? A: Yes, part of the goal is education.
- Probably will involve improving the road some (previous operations had to)
- Will work with State Parks on outreach

- Phil encourages a Field Trip beforehand – have trees marked. Send info for our website. 2 other harvests planned – Sprague and Jewel lots.

Q: How will the funds from the harvest be used? A: 5-10% of SPNHF income is from harvests. Want to be up front about that, another point to educate public about.

Gap Mountain management plan: Harvests in 2015, 2018, 2020, and 2021. Involved some Gap South trailhead closures. North-side harvest this summer, won't close the trailhead, but will impact the Donovan spur trail.

Q: How has recent understanding of tree communication impacted timber harvest planning? A: It's very interesting, though nothing new...just popularized lately. Those factors are things we think about to some degree in forest management. We'll see how the science develops.

Matt: Recreation update: Several large trail projects planned this year – SCA, AMC, SPNHF volunteers

- Stone Steps on Marlboro Trail – SCA Crew, July & August. Rec Trails grant with matching funds from OTR fund.
- AMC – 5 weeks on Marlboro Trail (5 people, around 1,000 person-hours of work) Identifying projects.
- Monadnock Trails Week – July 22-26. More outreach and community involvement, building on last year. Hiring pro crew-leaders.
- Gap Mtn North – Spongy area will be worked on by Heil and SPNHF volunteers

Q: Was there a plan for a Marlboro Trail re-route? A: looked at that with a pro crew, but the cost was astronomical, so not any time soon. Rock work planned will address some of that need.

Q: Will any federal funds be available for this kind of thing? A (Phil): Indirectly...we are receiving Fed funds (see Parks update below), but will go towards things that generate revenue. But that in turn will help our budget, and allow for us to spend on things like trail maintenance.

5. Division of Parks & Recreation update

Will: Logan has been promoted up to the Central Region, as the Assistant Regional Manager. Congrats to her, and to Mary Shotton who will be starting as the Monadnock Assistant Manager on 5/6! We'll be looking to hire a new Gilson Pond Campground Manager (Mary's current role).

Getting GPA opened up earlier this year. Half the sites opened April 8, the rest open this weekend (4/22), all primitive (no water). Water will be turned on for full opening on May 6.

Busy with getting water on, campsites cleaned and prepared (both GPA and HQ), hazard trees removed, septic repairs, trail needs assessed.

Park hasn't been as busy early in the season as it was previous two years...however cold, often rainy weekends are definitely a contributing factor.

We will have a pro crew working on the White Cross trail this year (stone stairs up "Troop Rock", a high-priority hazard area), as well as 3 SCA crews (projects TBD). SCA Interpretive Rangers will be back this year after a 2-year hiatus.

And high-speed internet is imminent for all staffed locations at Monadnock!

Phil: Approved for \$22 M in federal funding. Our list of projects is \$80 M. Up to the legislature to determine what gets funding. Will focus on investments that generate revenue for parks – expanding campgrounds, work on the Tram, etc. That will allow for parks to spend money in other areas – SCA

for instance, who will do a lot of work including on Monadnock. New program agreement just completed with SCA at Bear Brook

RTP funds are administered by Parks – Phil is pushing for \$ to come this way for trails, to fulfil commitment with SPNHF for trailwork.

Who loves Drones? Just successfully killed a bill that would have allowed drones in parks. Q: Do we ever use drones for rescues, etc.? A: Certainly a possibility – we do allow drones for certain purposes – SAR could be one, we’ve used them or Marketing – and they are allowable by Special Use Permit. Just not any time by anyone.

The pavilion we’re meeting in, FYI, was restored by Historic Sites: A nice example of their work.

A lot of focus on ARPA funding, to spend that money. The Capital budget now includes Forests and Lands, something Phil has long pushed for. Can spend money now for State Nursery and other locations.

Have been making a push to open Parks earlier – some staff have been groaning, but have stepped up, and seems to be popular with the public

Q: Any news on Fee Schedule changes? A: Didn’t go for anything major. Parks are doing well, so it’s a hard sell to ask for increases. Not sure an in- or out-of-state difference will occur for day-use, but we may see that for camping. Considering it, looking at the lots in Franconia Notch.

6. Division of Forests and Lands update

Scott/ Tyler: Sawyer lot harvest moving forward. Met w/ Wendy and the Holisters. Project area is south of the Parker Trail. Group selection – openings of 1-2 acres. Will have public site-walk. Updates on Park website. Harvest will be out of the way, but trucks will be going in and out of the bottom part of the Toll Road.

7. MERE update

Peter absent, update via E-mail to Will:

“Shared MERE’s annual report at last meeting. We continue the writing on the 2 page technical bulletins and the double sided infographics (attached ice storm example). I am working with my former PhD student, MERE project coordinator, who is now faculty at SUNY ESF on hiker attitude research. Monadnock is 1 of 5 sites across the northeast. This research was piloted here last year. Jill has corresponded with Will. I am still interested in restoring the area above Virginia Falls. Need professional assessment of the proposed stone steps and costs to submit a grant that has a December deadline.”

8. Open Floor/ New business

Q: Any update on reservation system including remote trails? A: No, it would be a big project getting staff and necessary infrastructure to the sites, and use has gone down (2021 wasn’t as big a problem as 2020, and 2022 is starting off less still). We’d need to mandate fees if we were going to staff, so this year we’ll just go back to periodic checks on the busiest weekends (from HQ staff as available)

How about a poster that tells people how much trailwork, etc. costs? How about a one-liner: “Last year \$XXX spent on maintenance – please help”? Give an idea of what the fees do? This year we’ll try for simplicity...lots of words tend to go unread. See how that goes, maybe update later?

9. Set date for next meeting

Thursday November 10th, 4-6 PM. Location TBD (Dave Adams mentioned the Inn at East Hill Farm was a possibility. It’s been used by MAC before. Robin will call.

10. Adjourn