

Mount Sunapee Advisory Committee Meeting (*Approved, as amended, on 02/14/12*)
May 24, 2011 at Newbury Town Hall

Committee members present:

Commissioner George Bald, Committee Chairman
Melanie Bell, Town of Goshen
Tim Drew, Dept of Environmental Services
Don Kent, Division of Forests and Lands designee
Nancy Marashio, Society for the Protection of NH Forests
Gordon Marshall, Lake Sunapee Protective Association
Gail Wolek, Division of Parks and Recreation
Dan Wolf, Town of Newbury

Members absent:

Christine Walker, UVLSRPC

Others present: Jay Gamble, General Manager/Mount Sunapee Resort; Rob Bryant, Lake Sunapee Region Chamber of Commerce; Torene Tango-Lowy, Committee clerk; several members of the public.

Welcome and Introductions Commissioner Bald called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Members and attendees introduced themselves.

Acceptance of minutes Ms. Marashio motioned to accept the minutes of June 15, 2010, as written; Mr. Marshall seconded. Motion adopted.

Old Business There was no old business.

New Business Commissioner Bald asked the committee if they had any questions on Mount Sunapee Resort's (MSR) Annual Operating Plan 2011-2012 (AOP), which was sent to members in advance. Mr. Drew said that the DES permits were in compliance, and asked about the status of the sprayfields. Mr. Gamble said MSR will look to new permitting when the work will take place.

Mr. Wolf and Dr. Kent pointed out minor typos: date corrections on pg. 2 and 30, and the correct spelling of "liparis," pg. 24. Mr. Wolf asked about biodiesel use. Mr. Gamble said the reduction in use is due to cost, availability, and that bioblend fuels are not such a "green" solution as originally thought.

Ms. Marashio asked about water withdrawals for snowmaking. Mr. Gamble responded that MSR is permitted to withdraw up to 258 million gallons, and withdrew approx. 160 million gallons during the 2010-2011 winter season. MSR has averaged 150 million gallons annually over the last five years (AOP, pg. 21). Water withdrawals are related to temperatures and snowmaking needs.

Dr. Kent asked about summer recreation plans. Mr. Gamble said MSR will be working on plans this fall for summer 2012. Offerings must fit the property, yield good utilization, and be non-intrusive to winter operations.

Mount Sunapee Resort Update Mr. Gamble said the 2010-2011 season was the best for weather and near ideal ski conditions, providing for 288,000 skier visits and near record daily crowds. This was consistent with other ski areas.

Improvements planned for 2011-2012 include the installation of air-conditioning in Sunapee Lodge, create glade skiing off Upper Ridge Trail, install a snowmaking pipe on the Outer Ridge Trail, and general maintenance work. Capital improvement spending for summer 2011 is estimated at \$475,000, excluding repairs and maintenance.

Discussion continued on the topics of: chairlift maintenance; creation of gladed trails; and the guest experience.

Commissioner Bald yielded the floor to the public. Mr. Gerry Gold said the hiking trails are in good shape and there's been tremendous improvement in the signage, a collaborative effort with the Resort, Bureau of Trails and the Greenway Coalition. Mr. Gold relayed his thanks to Trails Bureau Chief Chris Gamache for his support for the volunteer indemnification bill (HB 131).

Commissioner Bald asked the committee members for any other comments in the next ten days.

Next Meeting is at the call of the Chairman.

Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Submitted by T. Tango-Lowy.