

State Park System Advisory Council (RSA 216-A:3-kk)
December 1, 2017 Meeting Minutes (*Approved 01.19.18*)

An organizational meeting of the State Park System Advisory Council (SPAC) was called to order by Rep. Chris Christensen at the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources (DNCR) Concord Office, a quorum of members being present.

Council members present were Rep Philip Bean for House, Rick Blanchette/Friends of Wapack, Michael Bruss/NH Historic Preservation, Dir Phil Bryce/DNCR designee, Tom Chrisenton/Timberland Owners Assn, Rep Chris Christensen/RR&D Chair, Buddy Dionne/NH ATV Club, Tiffany Eddy/Tiffany Eddy & Associates, Jeffrey Gilbert for business, Ruth Griffin for public, Jennifer Kennedy/Blue Ocean Society, Matt Leahy/SPNHF, Rep John Mullen/RR&D, John Nyhan/general seat, Rep Suzanne Smith/RR&D.

Also present from the public were John Koopmann and Jeff Scott, and from DNCR were Comm. Jeffrey Rose, Dir Brad Simpkins, Deputy Dir Gail Wolek, Eric Feldbaum, Chris Gamache, Grant Goulet, Mike Housman, Johanna Lyons, Tom Mansfield, Chris Marino, Suzanne Robidoux, Ben Wilson, and Torene Tango-Lowy (SPAC clerk).

1. **Call to Order:** Rep Christensen call the meeting to order at 10 a.m. with a brief history of the bill he filed to reinstate the Council. Members and attendees introduced themselves. Commission Rose spoke of the Council's importance to the state park system.

2. **Overview of state parks:** Dir Bryce presented an overview of the Division, including its statutory mission, organizational structure, self-funding model, core assets, achievements and initiatives, and goals. A copy of the presentation will be posted on the SPAC webpage.

There was a short break.

3. **Review of Council duties:** The Council reviewed its statutory duties under RSA 216-A:3-kk, VI and a typical meeting agenda in accordance with its statutory duties.

4. **Review of Parks notebook:** Dir Bryce provided an overview of the materials provided to the Council.

- a) A summary of the Division, its Strategic Plan, recent awards, challenges, strengths, and organization chart.
- b) Statutes pertaining to the Division.
- c) OHRV and snowmobile registrations, allocation of registration fees, and recent statutes related to registration fees.
- d) Capital assets, 10-year capital budget summary, building condition summary, capital projects summary, and capital projects update report.
- e) State Parks Fee Package and Franconia Notch/Cannon Mountain Fee Package approved by Joint Fiscal Committee.
- f) Park Summary FY 2017 (draft), Service Parks Revenue & Expense Fund balance history, Comparative Statement of Parks Income & Retail Operations (Week 19), and NH State Parks Enterprise System overview.
- g) State Park License Plate May 2011-Oct 2017 report, including revenue by FY and DMV monthly report graphs.

- h) Land and Water Conservation Fund report and Volunteer Program Overview.
- i) FY 2016 Financial Report
- j) Ten-Year Strategic Development and Capital Improvement Plan, Jan 2010

Council members briefly discussed the materials and topics of interest.

5. Election of Chairman: Rep Christensen nominated Mr. Gilbert to serve as chairman; Rep Mullen seconded. With no other nominations, the motion was approved by the Council.

6. Upcoming topics for discussion: Dir Bryce will seek the Council's input on several topics:

- a) Drone use in state parks
- b) Strategic Plan update and public outreach
- c) Parks Fee Package, last updated in 2012
- d) Carrying Capacity issues, including Franconia Notch Master Plan and I-93 impacts
- e) Capital Budget

The report filed by the Commission to Study and Recommend Improvements to the NH Hiking Trails (SB383, 2016 Session) will be posted on the Division's Legislation webpage.

Dir Bryce said the job opening for a PIO-Marketing person was just posted internally. Parks will continue to collaborate with the Division of Travel & Tourism, now organized under the Dept. of Business and Economic Affairs, because state parks is a product for advertising and tourism.

Rep Bean said Hampton Beach State Park has impacted the local community, including \$2 mil in depreciation on the Hampton assets. The Town is considering its options. He commended the Commissioner and Director for the information provided today.

Mr. Dionne mentioned Senate Bill 521, 2016 Session, effective May 2018 that changes the OHRV registration fees based on club membership. Clear communication to help educate the public will be needed.

Mr. Gilbert said the Council actively works to support and advocate for the state park system; subcommittees can be convened to work on specific topics. Council members may provide input on the agenda, sent to the clerk at torene.tango-lowy@dncr.nh.gov Council members may also contact Commissioner Rose and Director Bryce directly, as needed.

7. Meeting schedule: The next meeting is Friday, January 19, 2018 at 10 a.m. at the DNCR Concord Office, with a snow date of January 26.

The Council will also meet on Friday, March 23, 2018 at 10 a.m. at Cannon Mountain (Park HQ Office) or Flume Gorge Visitor Center.

8. Public Input: Mr. Koopmann asked to have the Parks Notebook materials posted on the Division's website, to which Dir Bryce replied in the affirmative.

9. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Submitted by T. Tango-Lowy.