

**State Park System Advisory Council (RSA 216-A:3-kk)**  
January 19, 2018 Meeting Minutes (*Approved 03/23/18*)

A regular meeting of the State Park System Advisory Council (SPAC) was called to order by Chairman Gilbert at the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources (DNCR) Concord Office, a quorum of members being present.

Council members present were 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, Sen Harold French/Commerce Vice-Chair, Jeffrey Gilbert for business, Jennifer Kennedy/Blue Ocean Society, Matt Leahy/SPNHF, Rep John Mullen/RR&D, and Rep Suzanne Smith/RR&D.

Also present from the public were Chris Collins/Governor's Office, and from DNCR were John "JD" DeVivo, Eric Feldbaum, Mike Housman, Johanna Lyons, Tom Mansfield, and Torene Tango-Lowy (SPAC clerk).

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Gilbert called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Members and attendees introduced themselves.

2. **Approve minutes:** Rep Christensen moved to approve the 12/01/17 minutes; Rep Mullen seconded. Minutes were approved, as written.

3. **Advise Director:** Director's Report. Rep Christensen noted the positive feedback from participants of the First Day Hikes. A state park pass was provided to council members for the purpose of visiting state parks and historic sites to provide comments and feedback to the Director.

Dir Bryce reported on winter recreation and events, including First Day Hikes, Cannon snowmaking, and snowmobile/ATV trail conditions, and the up-coming Tri-state Reciprocal Snowmobile Weekend, Easter Seals Ride In for Camp Sno Mo, and Farm & Forest Expo.

4. **Capital projects:** The Franconia Ski Club facility agenda item was moved up to enable Mr. DeVivo to get back to Cannon to prepare for the weekend. Franconia Notch State Park and Cannon Mountain has received numerous awards, including the Governor's Award for energy efficiency of its snowmaking equipment. Cannon turns 80 this year and will be offering promos to celebrate.

Mr. DeVivo gave a brief history of the Mittersill ski area, the State's acquisition of the ski area in 1989, and the land exchange with the US Forest Service for the upper 1/3 portion in 2009. The Franconia Ski Club (FSC) proposes building a new lodge at the base of the Mittersill ski area. Currently, they operate out of Ernie's Hut located near the Park HQ building at Echo Lake. Their training and race programs and operation would be contained at the Mittersill ski area: enabling them to address current safety and logistical concerns. The FSC has had a long partnership with Cannon Mountain, contributing towards the \$4mil enhancements in snowmaking and ski terrain. The proposed 8K s.f. lodge would be funded and built by the FSC, its design would match the Cannon brand, and it would vest to the State. Use of the lodge would be non-exclusive and public.

5. **Advise Director:** Drone policy. Copies of the a) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS, aka "Drones") policy, DRAFT dated 01.17.18; b) Proposed Cannon Drone Use Justification & Guidelines; and c) FAA News, Summary of Small Unmanned Aircraft Rule (Part 107) were provided. Additional drone-related resources were provided by email, dated 01.17.18. Mr. DeVivo relayed the use of a drone at Cannon for marketing purposes. Members discussed the use of drones by the public and by an agency, rulemaking and permitting, FAA regulations, the NPS policy prohibiting the use of drones by the public, HB 1759 regulating the use of drones, privacy concerns,

and the public's "quiet enjoyment" of state park areas. The objective of a drone policy is to balance regulation with stewardship.

"Limitless Adventures" video. The Council viewed a "Limitless Adventures" video featuring the waterfalls located in Crawford Notch. Ms. Eddy suggested labeling each waterfall onscreen or providing a list of the waterfalls at the end of the video. The Council took a short break.

Parks Map. The new state parks guide/map design was shared and discussed. Dir Bryce asked members to email him with any other comments by Monday.

RFP Carrying Capacity. The RFP for a Park Capacity Public Use Analysis / Visitor use Management Framework for Mount Washington and Monadnock state parks was discussed. The analysis will inform decisions on infrastructure needs and potential management of public access.

Parking along I-93, FNSP. Dir Bryce provided an update on the parking issue occurring along I-93 at Franconia Notch. Public safety is a top priority, and revenue from the operations at the Flume and Tram must be protected. A shuttle service is being considered through a Request for Information.

Legislation. Dir Bryce briefed the Council on legislative activities, including testimony provided for HB 1696 Hampton Beach capital improvement fund, information provided for HB 1706 construction of a Lake Sunapee public boat launch, and tracking bills related to payment of fees for the purchase or rental of kayaks and canoes to help fund NHFG search and rescue. Dir Bryce serves on the Governor's Lake Sunapee Public Boat Access Development Commission. Mount Sunapee beach would not be an appropriate site for a boat launch because such that use would not be consistent with the intended use of the park as a family beach and swimming area.

**6. Capital Projects:** Ms. Lyons provided an update of the capital projects covering FY2016-17 and FY2018-19 budgets. She also provided a draft of the proposed FY2020-2021 capital projects. Selected projects are based on previous capital budgets, immediate need and deferred maintenance, and opportunities and revenue generation. The Division will need to submit its proposed budget to Administrative Services in April, then to the Governor's Office and Legislature.

Chairman Gilbert referred to the Division's 10-Year Strategic Development and Capital Improvement Plan that identified the importance of revenue generation to help support the park system and the return-on-investment from every capital project. The proposed capital budget will be on the agenda for the next meeting for further discussion.

Mr. Dionne asked about developing the campground at Jericho Mountain State Park. Dir Bryce said that no responses were received for the RFP for the campground, and that the Division would consider only limited development to keep the cost of a campsite affordable and since an RV campground is being developed nearby.

**7. Meeting schedule:** The next meeting is Friday, March 23, 2018 at 10 a.m. at the Franconia State Park HQ Office. Members may provide Chairman Gilbert and Dir Bryce with feedback on the agenda.

**8. Adjourn.** Mr. Bruss motioned to adjourn; Mr. Dionne seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

*Submitted by T. Tango-Lowy.*