

Monadnock Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 23, 2017

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Jaffrey Civic Center

ATTENDEES	AGENDA
✓ Ann Royce (Town of Jaffrey)	1. Welcome & Introductions
✓ Beth Kintz (Monadnock State Park)	2. Review of minutes from previous meeting
<input type="checkbox"/> Carrie Deegan (SPNHF)	3. MAC Financial Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Dave Adams (Town of Troy)	4. Division of Parks & Recreation update
✓ Don Upton (Town of Troy)	5. Monadnock SP Manager's update
✓ Ed Germain (Town of Dublin)	6. Monadnock SP Volunteer Program update
✓ Hiel Lundquist (Town of Fitzwilliam)	7. SPNHF update
<input type="checkbox"/> Jane Difley (SPNHF)	8. MERE update
✓ John Smith (Town of Jaffrey)	9. Master Plan update
✓ Peter Palmiotto (Antioch, MERE)	10. Open
✓ Phil Bryce (Parks & Recreation)	11. Set date for next meeting
<input type="checkbox"/> Polly Pattison (Town of Marlborough)	12. Adjourn
✓ Robin Haynes (Chair, Town of Fitzwilliam)	
✓ Sterling Abram (Town of Dublin)	
✓ Tara Blaney (Parks & Recreation)	Guests:
<input type="checkbox"/> Will Abbott (SPNHF)	Lee Willette- Monadnock SP/vol. coordinator
✓ Dan Rogalski (Town of Marlborough)	
✓ Wendy Weisiger (SPNHF)	

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Review of minutes from previous meeting
 - Motion to approve the minutes, seconded, and carried
3. MAC Financial Report
 - No expenditures since the last meeting on November 3, 2016
 - Balance \$2,795.38
4. Division of Parks & Recreation update
 - Budget request for FY'18 was \$9million higher than the actual spending for FY'16 due to the continuing resolution that limited spending and the addition of LWCF project obligations.
 - \$2million LWCF projects
 - \$1million lack of snowmobile registrations
 - \$1.5million out of the parks fund to do park improvement projects
 - \$3-4million in capital improvement projects
 - Legislation
 - Bill to study leasing Hampton to the town – killed in the House
 - The Division takes about \$1million in revenue out to support the rest of the project

- The State put \$1million into Hampton in bond payments from the general fund for the sea wall and the new Seashell complex
 - Bill to put firewood out to bid – killed
 - Bill to reinstate the State Parks Advisory Council – passed the House/Senate
- Enterprise RFP to expand capacity to process and collect visitor payment and information, and to expand reporting options
 - Allow visitors to Monadnock to purchase/reserve a parking space prior to their arrival
 - Allow more control of visitation
- New map of the State Parks System (with the addition of some Forest and Lands sites) is going to be coming out

5. Monadnock SP Manager update

- Park Visitation and Revenue – January 1, 2017 to March 16, 2017 (\$ total reflect the amount collected on site and does not include reservation fees collected by RA)
 - Headquarters
 - Day use visitation 3,416
 - Day use \$ \$17,506
 - Camping \$1,201
 - Retail \$9,530
 - Old Toll Road (iron ranger collection, area not staffed)
 - Day use visitation 65
 - Day use \$ \$322
 - Gilson Pond Area (iron ranger collection, area not staffed)
 - Day use visitation 7
 - Day use \$ \$36
 - Satellite Areas - Iron Rangers
 - Gap N \$1
 - Gap S \$16
 - Dublin Trailhead \$20
 - Marlboro Trailhead \$36
 - Rhododendron SP \$0
 - 2017 Revenue compared 2016 Revenue -\$12,340
 - 2017 Visitation compared 2016 Visitation -1,412
 - Average temperature for the end of February through March of 2017 is 10.36 degrees cooler than the end of February through March of 2016. This may be a contributing factor resulting in lower revenue and visitation.
- Winter Projects
 - Park Store floor was sanded down and refinished
 - Main Toilet Building
 - New plumbing infrastructure
 - New fixtures
 - New sinks and counters
 - Installation of had dryers to replace paper towel dispensers
 - Interior refinish of walls, ceiling, and trim
 - Installation of a new energy efficient water heater and lighting
 - Residence electrical upgrade
 - Sign refurbishing for HQ and Rhododendron SP
 - Continuation of cleaning out park buildings and surrounding areas
 - Construction of new kiosks for HQ, OTR, and Rhododendron SP
 - Reed Cabin renovations
 - Cleanout and removal of water/animal damaged insulation and paneling
- Spring/Summer Projects
 - Landscaping at HQ around office, trailhead, MTB, pavilion, and park store
 - Parking definition and edging
 - Flower beds

- New signage and kiosks
 - Clean up wooded area of dead/down trees between 1st/2nd lot and the picnic area
6. Monadnock SP Volunteer program update
- 2017 season projects
 - Continuation of Nature Trail rehab
 - Refinishing of the Visitor Center floor
 - Almost all of the work agreements and been sent out, signed, and returned
 - Statute provides insurance coverage for individuals with work agreements volunteering on DRED properties
 - DRED is working on purchasing an insurance contract to cover organizations with work agreements that volunteer on DRED properties
7. SPNHF update
- Monadnock Trails Week set for July 14th -18th
 - Jolly Rovers will do a 10 day hitch in mid to last August to continue work on the White Cross trail
 - Off The Beaten Path will do a 2 week hitch this summer to continue work on the White Dot trail
 - As part of a 5 hike series there will be a hike scheduled at Monadnock on October 18th 10am to 3pm.
 - Parking lot grading at Gap Mountain scheduled for this spring/summer
 - Winter timber harvest along the Marlboro Trail is finished. There are two more entry points along the trail to be scheduled for future harvesting. The timber management plan for Monadnock was completed two years ago and is made up of 6 different management plots (these plots do not include land in the eco-reserve). Harvests will be planned and scheduled within the next 10 years. A recommendation was made to use Shaker Farm Road North to truck material out in the future.
 - Would like to complete educational, silvicultural harvest along the Marlboro trail at some point
8. MERE update
- Meet the Mountain Day is scheduled for April 29th from 10am to 3pm
 - Summer research will consist of a complete resampling of all the study plots on the mountain (from 1,800' to 3,000' in elevation) with the addition of transect sampling to look at coarse woody debris fuel loads and fire hazard mapping
9. Master Plan update
- A lot of constraints associated with existing building when deciding placement of a new structure(s) ie – new bathhouse, “Flume-like” visitor center, etc.
 - Development priorities are decent winterized bathroom facilities and more bathroom facilities for the main operating season
 - Pending adequate plumbing/sewer infrastructure, a potential option would be to expand and winterize the current facilities in the Main Toilet Building
 - To keep the Federal grant dollars that are already slated for the Monadnock bathhouse project, funds need to be committed to a contract by September 2017
 - Potential addition this season of a pit toilet off of the 2nd parking lot
 - There is a need to consolidate function and facilities for both visitor convenience and staff efficiency
 - Toll booth developments to include a traffic flow pattern change to increase speed and efficiency of the intake operation. This may include a dedicated exit lane. A more in depth site work study will need to be completed.
 - What are the limitations of carrying capacity? The Division is looking at conducting a survey to find out what visitors are looking for when they come to the park. The results will help guide development decisions regarding how many visitors can the park reasonably accommodate.
 - The primary issues addressed in the 2003 Master Plan was the management of the intensity of use especially during times of peak use during foliage season and to develop programs and facilities to accommodate those uses. These issues have not changed.
 - The Plan does not need to be rewritten, it needs to be updated. What is still relevant, what is relevant but needs updating based on current use, what is no longer relevant based on current use. MAC will meet on Wednesday, May 3, 2017 to begin this process of evaluating the current plan. Members will review the 2003 plan prior to the meeting.

10. Open floor

- Is the type of toilet unit to be built going to be composting? Not out of the question but there are not ideal sites to accommodate this type of unit. These units also require a higher level of routine maintenance and upkeep. This needed expenditure of staff time needs to be considered in the overall cost of the unit.
- Has there been any thought of adding pit toilets to the back trailheads instead of utilizing rented portable toilets? This is on SPNHF land and there is not currently a long range plan to move in that direction in those areas.
- New signage policy for kiosks and gallow signs. The goal is to have consistency and standardization across the NH Parks system.
- Estimated value of trail work needed at Monadnock is between \$1.9million and \$2.4million. Using the same multiplier for across the State's trail system there is an estimated between \$5million and \$10million of needed trail work. These numbers are being used in capital budget requests. This need is not on the books.

11. Set date for next meeting

- Master Plan update meeting Wednesday, May 3, 2017 from 3-6pm at the Jaffrey Civic Center
- Fall meeting Thursday, November 2, 2017 from 4-6 at the Jaffrey Civic Center

12. Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn, seconded, and carried