

Monadnock Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: August 28, 2014
Location: Jaffrey Civic Center
Time: 4PM

ATTENDEES	AGENDA
✓ Ann Royce (Town of Jaffrey)	1. Welcome & Introductions
✓ Beth Kintz (Monadnock State Park)	2. New Park Manager Introductions
✓ Carrie Deegan (SPNHF)	3. Review of minutes from previous meeting
✓ Dave Adams (Town of Troy)	4. MAC Financial Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Don Upton (Town of Troy)	5. Divisions of Parks & Recreation update
✓ Ed Germain (Town of Dublin)	6. Society for the Protection of NH Forests update
✓ Hiel Lundquist (Fitzwilliam)	7. MERE update
<input type="checkbox"/> Jane Difley (SPNHF)	8. Pumpelly Trailhead Issue
✓ John Smith (Town of Jaffrey)	9. New bathhouse at Headquarters
✓ Ken Desmarais (Forests & Lands)	10. Elect new Commission Chairperson
✓ Peter Palmiotto (Antioch, MERE)	11. Open Floor
<input type="checkbox"/> Phil Bryce (Parks & Recreation)	12. Ajourn
<input type="checkbox"/> Polly Pattison (Town of Marlborough)	
✓ Robin Haynes (Chair, Town of Fitzwilliam)	Guests:
✓ Sterling Abram (Town of Dublin)	Tom Mansfield (DRED)
✓ Tara Blaney (Parks & Recreation)	Johanna Lyons (DRED)
<input type="checkbox"/> Will Abbott (SPNHF)	

1. Welcome & Introductions - Robin Haynes
Attendees introduced themselves, including MAC members and meeting guests.
2. New Park Manager Introductions – Beth Kintz
Beth is happy to be back in NH and excited to be the new manager at Monadnock State Park. She comes with a parks background from NH State Parks, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and SD State Parks, as well as a Bachelor of Science – Parks, Recreation, and Ecotourism from Unity College.
3. Review of minutes from previous meeting – Robin Haynes
A motion was made and accepted to accept minutes as written. Minutes were accepted by unanimous vote (no “nays” or abstentions.)
4. MAC Financial Report – Ann Royce
 Balance as of February 25, 2014: \$3,749.25
 + Deposit: \$1,050.00 - Withdrawal: \$716.14
 Rescue donation: \$1,000.00 Digital recorder: \$39.99
 Fast Friends donation: \$50.00 Visitor Center: \$500.48
 (in memory of Ernie Linders) Search & Rescue equipment: \$125.67
 Balance as of August 28, 2014: \$4,033.11

5. Divisions of Parks & Recreation update – Tom Mansfield

Without Phil Bryce present, there were no specific updates presented. However, Tom discussed site work being done at the Old Toll Road trailhead and replacement of the toll booth. The site work will be done by the contractor Mountain Shade. The work being completed will correct site drainage problems and seasonal pooling. The parking lot will remain the same size. The SPNHF will be paying for the new toll booth (~\$7,000.00). The booth is built and will be installed after the fall foliage season. Tom also asks that SPNHF help to pay for some of the site work costs (quoted at \$18,000.00). Carrie said that SPNHF budgeted for \$11,000.00 for the project and any further requests would need to go to the SPNHF board for approval.

6. Society for the Protection of NH Forests update – Carrie Deegan

Pretty good Monadnock Trails Week this year. This year saw ~60 people volunteer which are fewer than previous years which have seen ~80 volunteers. This year youth camp groups were not able to participate. Fewer volunteers proved easier to manage. The volunteers logged over 860 hours of trail work on drainage projects the White Dot, White Arrow, Lost Farm, Dublin, and the Parker trails, and stone steps on the Pumpelly trail. In October, there will be an SCA trail crew (paid for out of the Old Toll Road money) continuing the work on the White Dot replacing the old timber waterbars. There are 45 waterbars that are about to fail or have already failed (15 were replaced during trails week). SPNHF has hired someone to complete an assessment of the trail system on Monadnock, this was a project that was mentioned in the 2003 Master Plan. The assessment, once completed, will be loaded onto a map using GIS and show all of the issues on the trails. This will help to prioritize projects. There are only about 5 miles left to assess.

7. MERE update – Peter Palmiotto

The Monadnock Visitor Center is a great example of a public/private partnership (MAC, Antioch/MERE, and NH State Parks) that worked really well and is a real asset for the public. Adopt a Crevice program with Keene High School and Dublin School will continue to happen with more sampling activities in the fall and spring. MERE will continue to send its graduate students to the park on busy days to work as summit stewards and talk to people about the alpine ecosystem. They will also continue to assist Mountain Patrol and the park staff with their efforts. The program is currently down one steward but they hope to bump the numbers back up for the fall. Students are currently working on writing up the final results of the snowshoe hare impact on red spruce study. A new study of the bogs on Monadnock is starting. This study will hopefully give insight on the climate on Monadnock since glaciation. Work to find out how deep the bog is and how far back in history can the data go has already begun. Preliminary probing has shown the bog to be several meters deep. The study hopes to find answers to when the bog formed and what we can expect for future climate changes.

8. Pumpelly Trailhead issue - Ed Germain, Beth Kintz, Carrie Deegan

There was local concern about parking at the Pumpelly trailhead and getting ticketed by new Dublin PD officers. This turns out to be a non-issue. Dublin PD is not ticketing any more or any less than they have in the past. Hikers must park on the side of the road opposite of the. The road is signed no parking on the lake side of the road. Officers ticket for parking on the wrong side of the road and for facing the wrong direction. Steps are being taken to make sure the signage is clear and private residents are not putting up additional signs and creating confusion.

9. New bathhouse at Headquarters – Tom Mansfield and Johanna Lyons

The NH State Parks has received state capitol appropriations to be used in park improvements. Phil Bryce would like to see improvements made in the park system's bathhouses. The Old Toilet Building at Monadnock is 1 of 6 in the state that is in need of replacement. Johanna reviewed the 2003 Master Plan goals and objectives and outlined what has been accomplished. There were 3 phases of development laid out. Phase 1: Development of the Gilson Pond Campground. This has been operational since 2009 and has taken pressure off of the Headquarter area. Phase 2:

Development at the Headquarters area. Phase 3: More improvements to visitor services at the Headquarters area (ie- expanded parking, new welcome/visitor center, and a new bathroom to replace the Old Toilet Building.) We have accomplished Phase 1, part of Phase 2 (paving lot 1 at Headquarters, trail maintenance, and have adopted several management changes laid out.) Monadnock currently has a bathroom deficiency with the OTB being out of commission due to a water main breakage under the building. All of the use pressure is on the Main Toilet Building. Placement of the new bathroom is key so future development of the Headquarters Area is not put in jeopardy. Since Monadnock has seen an increase in winter use, there is a clear need for winterized facilities for both visitors and staff. The new bathroom could be placed by the store, however, that would limit development for a large lodge type facility that would house retail operations, visitor services, administrative offices, and a meeting/interpretive room. The new toilet building will be located in the same general area as the OTB so it will be able to utilize the same infrastructure (ie – electrical hook ups and leach field.) This facility will have 6 fixtures on either side (women’s side: 6 toilets; men’s side: 3 toilets and 3 urinals.) Funds available for the toilet building project are around \$400,000 (\$200,000 from capitol development to match the \$200,000 from a Federal Land & Water Conservation grant.) This would be a seasonal building. However, there is an option to build the facility as a composting unit. This would allow the building to remain in use through the year.

10. Elect new Commission Chairperson – Robin Haynes

No volunteers or nominations for a new Chairperson at this time. Ann volunteered to send the area towns the Monadnock State Park Annual Report prepared by the Park Manager to be include with the town’s annual reports. Also, a new representative needs to be found for Marlboro.

11. Open Floor

- a. Many positive comments about the new exhibits in the Visitor Center. Money well spent.
- b. Can gates be put up at the Gap Mtn trailheads for winter? When people drive on the soft ground in the spring the parking lot becomes rough with tire ruts and don’t smooth out until late in the summer. It was suggested to have the lots yolk raked in the spring or have the towns (Troy, Fitzwilliam or Jaffrey?) rake the lots. If there was a gate people would end up parking along the road and neighbor landowners would be upset. Town MAC reps will talk to local road agents about raking the lots in the spring. It may be possible to use money out of the Old Toll Road fund to accomplish annual lot maintenance.
- c. Positive comments about the lower part of the stairs on Pumpelly. This project has greatly improved the area. Trails week volunteers are able to complete 70’ per year. Using this average there are 15 “Monadnock Trails Weeks” worth of work left.
- d. What is the life of a master plan? The 2003 Master Plan was to lay out capital improvements and management strategies. Most public use plans, in Johanna’s opinion, need to be revisited after 5 years because public use changes so fast. Public use drives the improvement projects in the park system. A master plan can sometimes be used to procure money or legislature dollars as the plan can show an overall vision.
- e. Manager’s update: Very busy season including going to turnaway at the Headquarters area the first weekend in June. Camping has be busy at GPA and filled up nearly every weekend throughout the summer season. The 2 remote sites that allow campfires are very popular; the other 3 are not very popular because fires are not permitted. Iron Ranger around the back trailheads use is holding steady with previous year’s use. Rhododendron was not staffed during bloom this year. Next year, having either a volunteer or paid staff at the park during bloom is something to look into.
- f. This year 2014 marks the 20th year the NH State Parks has worked with the SCA. A program that started its NH State Parks work at Monadnock State Park. This fall there will be 2 Discover the Power of Parks interpretive SCA interns at Monadnock (there was 1 at the park every Sunday

during the summer season.) These interns will assist with bus talks, talks on “Hike Safe” and natural and cultural history of the area, provide outreach to the community, provide informal interpretive talk out on the trail, and assist with Mtn Patrol activities.

- g. Next meeting set for February 5, 2015 at 4pm in the Jaffrey Civic Center.