

Additional Commission Concepts

The Commission made the following suggestions or raised the following issues. These were not included in the draft either because they were either still formative, I was unable to develop an appropriate text, or they were contrary to other existing text.

- The Commission has indicated that it may wish to add more environmental and historical information to the document or more information in the purpose/preamble.
- Additional thoughts were discussed about including a preamble explaining: “this is why the partners of the commission are what they are” and discussing “how things have changed over 100 years.”
- The Commission has not yet reached consensus on an action item related to “carrying capacity” of the Summit? This topic was included in comments by several Commission members.
- The concept of an environmental baseline was moved to the front of the document as many members stressed its importance. The Commission will need to decide if it will require that the baseline actually be completed prior to implementation of master plan objective or whether implementation can move forward.
- There was a suggestion that there be an entire section on visitor experience and that a narrative on visitor experience should be provided by all Summit Partners. Some members asked for a public survey which, if it occurs, should ensure that the public gets fair and equal representation.
- A member of the public suggested that nonhuman species be represented in the process.
- A general vision statement from the Observatory was submitted in the interim.
- It was suggested that the Master Plan could have an appendix that was an inventory of everything that was already on the summit (existing conditions, electrical service, water service, square feet, etc.).
- The Cog suggested that UNH could bring up topsoil and test success/resiliency of plantings.
- Edith Tucker suggested that the Commission find out where there are communication gaps that can be improved noting that dispatch and emergency have non-coverage areas. Perhaps Townsquare Media could indicate whether it know if anyone wants space. Members noted that the military and the N.H. Dept. of Safety are not represented on the Commission. State Parks noted the possibility of a separate communications study.
- Earl Duval volunteered to submit a document relevant to summit experience and possibly communications.
- Counsel suggested that someone should ensure that Rep. Umberger’s thoughts on the Yankee Building are obtained.

- The Auto Road submitted the following comments after the last meeting.

Before ANYTHING further is done on or near the summit, the Mount Washington Commission must see that a thorough environmental analysis is completed to gauge the current conditions on and near the summit. The purpose of this analysis is to make sure that any future expansion, development or construction of any kind will not harm the environmental health of the summit. This may well mean that ALL entities must put their individual plans on hold in favor of the greater good of the summit of Mt. Washington.

Rather than the current unfettered growth in guest numbers currently happening, the numbers need to be controlled to what the current summit infrastructure can handle.

This analysis will likely take several years but will be essential to the future health and success of Mt. Washington and the Mt. Washington partners.