

New Hampshire Statewide Trails Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes from April 14, 2009

In Attendance

Members:

- Tom Dimaggio (Chair) NH Musers Assoc
- Larry Keniston NH DOT/Bike-Ped
- Scott Hatch NEA4WDC
- Jack Chapman FOMBA
- Dennis Ford NHTSA
- Ken Domey NHOHVA
- Greg Placy NH DOT/Dist 1
- Judy Silva NH Municipal Assoc
- Marianne Leberman WMNF
- Jack Waldron SPNH
- Debbie Briscoe NH Horse Council
- Chris Gamache NH Trails Bureau

Staff:

- Jennifer Codispoti NH Trails Bureau
- Bill Gegas NH Trails Bureau

Guests:

- Dave Topham BWA-NH
- Greg Bakos BWA-NH
- Gerry Gold SRKGC
- Raynold Jackson TrailWrights NH

Open Meeting

7:10 PM, meeting called to order.

Introductions

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

Review Minutes

Minutes from the January 13, 2009 meeting reviewed and accepted.

OHRV Update

The 2008/2009 snowmobile season was a success. Snowfall and conditions were good and consistent throughout the season. Many good reports from users and businesses have been received. Final totals for registrations have not been release by F&G at this time.

The Trails Bureau is looking at complete as much trail development at Jericho Mtn SP this summer as possible.

Recreational Trails Program

The 2009 RTP selection meeting was held on March 25th. 66 applications were received by the January 26th deadline. Total scores have not been tallied as of this time. The Trails Bureau will distribute to the STAC the list of grantees and their projects after the grantees have been notified.

Heritage Trail Update

No updates

New Business

NH Rail Trail Alliance: The newly formed NH Rail Trail Alliance has been accepted as a new member of the STAC. The NHRTA falls under the umbrella of the NH Bike Walk Alliance. The NHRTA is a non-profit group that looks to create a resource for a statewide network of user organizations and agencies who manage rail trails in NH. The NHRTA can be the driving force behind some larger trail projects and will look for as much local support as possible. The NHBWA primarily focuses on biking and walking routes on roads, multi-use trails and designated routes. They are not focused on hiking and/or mountain biking but do generally support efforts associated with those uses.

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Trail Bandit: The Trail Bandit is an individual from NH who had caused some issues with the National Parks Service in the US Virgin Islands. In the USVI the Trail Bandit had reportedly performed illegal cutting on NPS property. He has since moved his focus on the Ossipee Mountain Range, creating a trail map which he then sells. Private landowners within the Ossipee range have become aware of this and contacted the state for help. The landowners are displeased with the Trail Bandit's actions, feeling that that his map is wrongfully encouraging people to traverse the property without permission. The landowners will likely post the land closed if the Trail Bandit does not cease his project. Discussion ensued.

Data collection on private land by state employees: The Department of Environmental Services is developing procedures for state personnel to gather data on private property. This was initiated after DES geologic survey personnel were found collecting data on private land by the landowner and then kicked off.

New legislation: SB203, Liability protection for railroad operators. This bill extends Duty of Care protection to RR operators of railroads with adjacent recreational trails. Bicycles were also added to the bill. HB2FNA, trailer bill to state budget regarding boards, commissions, committees and councils. If it passes then STAC will sunset on June 30, 2011 and would then have to be reauthorized under new legislation. The Federal Highway Administration requires that states have a STAC in order to receive RTP funding. The Trails Bureau will provide the necessary justifications to keep STAC from being subject to this sunset bill. SB132, new language passed Senate. Will create new departments by dividing and combining others. Economic Development, Travel and Tourism, and Employment Security would be combined into one department. Parks & Rec, Forests & Lands, Agriculture, Fish & Game, Cultural Resources, and Weights & Measures would be combined into another department. Law enforcement divisions (Conservation Officers and Forest Rangers) would go to the Department of Safety.

Old Business

NH Trail Adopter Program: The first NH Trails Bureau Trail Adopter Program training will be held on April 25th at Bear Brook State Park for registered adopters. The pilot program will be focused on Bear Brook, Rollins and Winslow State Parks with potential to expand into Pawtuckaway State Park. The Trails Bureau has been working with the AMC to develop the program.

Trail related legislation update: HB272 for ATV crossings/connectors in Coos County was killed. Snowmobile registrations will be increasing by approximately 33%. The last increase was implemented in 1997. Trail operation costs have since increased dramatically. Cost of steel has increased by 400% and diesel by 600%. A trailer bill will increase violation fees.

Other

Next meeting set for September 22, 2009 DRED conference room, 172 Pembroke Road, Concord.

Meeting adjourned.