

**Bear Brook State Park Management Plan
Steering Committee Meeting
April 29, 2019**

Steering Committee Members in attendance:

Name	Representing
Avis Rosenfield	Non-Motorized Recreation
Sandra McKenney	Town of Allenstown
Carol Foss	Non-Game Wildlife
Armand Verville	Cultural and Historic Resources
Tom St. Martin	Town of Candia
Eric Orff	Game and Sportsmen
Dan Dwyer	Non-Motorized Recreation
Suzanne Smith	State Park System Advisory Council
Wendy Weisiger	Forest Management
Tom DiMaggio	Recreation at Large
Steve Hampl	Motorized Recreation
Jeffrey Eames	Forest Products Industry
Matthew Lavoie	Town of Hooksett

Absent: Brian Adams, Town of Deerfield

Technical Team members in attendance:

Name	Agency/Position
Will Guinn	DFL, Administrator, Forest Management Bureau
Johanna Lyons	DPR, State Park Planner, Park Operations Bureau
Tara Blaney	DPR, Regional Park Supervisor, Park Operations Bureau
Christina Barton	DPR, Park Manager, Park Operations Bureau
Chris Gamache	DPR, Administrator, Trails Bureau
Mike Weeks	DPR, Regional Trails Supervisor, Trails Bureau
Scott Rolfe	DFL, Regional Forest Supervisor, Forest Management Bureau
Billy Kunelius	DFL, Forester, Forest Management Bureau
Kyle Lombard	DFL, Forest Health Program Coordinator, Forest Health Office
Jim Oehler	NHFG, State Lands Habitat Biologist
Melissa Doperalski	NHFG, Wildlife Diversity Biologist

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 pm.

Phil Bryce, Director of Parks and Recreation, thanked everyone for coming together to volunteer to spend their time on this steering committee. Phil shared with the committee the progress Bear Brook State Park continues to make on projects such as Bear Hill Pond Camp, working on its trails, Catamount Pond Campground for horse camping, and working with 4H. He mentioned the high demand for its different recreational areas and uses. Parks has several priorities and challenges. One of our biggest challenges being the weather, as a self-funded park and department we rely on nice weather. Parks objective is to get people outside and in our parks.

Brad Simpkins, Director of Forests and Lands, thanked everyone for coming and working on this management plan with us. Our Department has a new name; we are now the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR). Bear Brook State Park is the third largest park and a very important property. Our properties are state reservations and we manage all DNCR properties together.

Will Guinn Forest Management Bureau Administrator spoke about state reservations. DNCR's mission is to protect, preserve and promote state lands. All DNCR managed lands are state reservations and have some type of activity going on within them. He spoke of the purpose of state reservations and forest benefits. He described the difference between a state forest and a state park. State Parks have developed recreation amenities and State Forests have limited recreational development. State reservations are sub-zoned in resource management categories and he described forestry land use as managed for timber resources. Recreation land use have facilities, amenities and public use. Bear Brook is zoned mostly forestry, with only 563 acres zoned recreation.

Scott Rolfe, Regional Forester spoke about Bear Brook State Park history. He shared that it is the largest developed state park and how it was developed and shaped by the Civilian Conservation Corps. He also described the Forest Management Bureau's main objectives and their approach for managing the forest resources at Bear Brook State Park. Bear Brook State Park's 1994 Management plan was created and wrote by former Bureau Administer Ken Desmaris. Scott explained the criteria system and each of the 4 levels. Timber harvests have been distributed through out the park.

Johanna Lyons, Park Planner for Parks and Recreation spoke of recreational management within Bear Brook State Park. She explained that the agency is self-funded and how the funding of the state park systems relies on the funds generated through fees collected in day-use and camping. Johanna gave a background on recreation demonstration areas and that Bear Brook was one of them. She also spoke about current recreational use at Bear Brook State Park and changes and new uses have been added to the park. Camping in Bear Brook, the different camping areas and its occupancy rates. She went through the types of infrastructure in the park, highlighting that Bear Brook State Park has 134 buildings.

Will Guinn reviewed the timeline and planning process explaining the drafting and the writing of each section, presenting drafts to the steering committee and receiving input. Public listening sessions will be scheduled so the public can comment and voice concerns.

Tom DiMaggio was elected Chairperson and Avis Rosenfield was chosen as vice chairperson.

The next meeting was selected for June 27th 2019.

Public Comment was opened up and several committee members asked questions.

- How long is this plan to in affect? 15 to 20 years. We want to accomplish what we put into the management plan. Management is fluid and will change as needed.
- Which division receives the money from timber sales? Forests and Lands receives the money from timber sales. It is used to fund the stewardship responsibilities by DFL.