

Monadnock Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 17, 2016

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
✓ Carrie Deegan (SPNHF)	3. MAC Financial Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Dave Adams (Town of Troy)	4. Division of Parks & Recreation update
<input type="checkbox"/> 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
<input type="checkbox"/> John Smith (Town of Jaffrey)	9. New Master Plan needs and Parking Lot Expansion
<input type="checkbox"/> Ken Desmarais (Forests & Lands)	10. Update on the Pipeline and the Fitzwilliam Prime Wetland Study
✓ Peter Palmiotto (Antioch, MERE)	11. Open Floor
✓ Phil Bryce (Parks & Recreation)	12. Set date for next meeting
✓ Polly Pattison (Town of Marlborough)	13. Adjourn
✓ Robin Haynes (Chair, Town of Fitzwilliam)	Guests:
✓ Sterling Abram (Town of Dublin)	Johanna Lyons - DRED
✓ Tara Blaney (Parks & Recreation)	Lee Willette- Monadnock SP/vol. coordinator
<input type="checkbox"/> Will Abbott (SPNHF)	Warren Davis- Troy Conservation Commission
✓ Dan Rogalski (Town of Marlborough)	
✓ Wendy Weisiger (SPNHF)	

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review of Minutes from last meeting
 - No revisions needed. Motion to approve, seconded, and approved.
3. MAC Financial Report
 - Previous meeting balance of \$3595.33
 - One expenditure, which was approved at prior meeting, of \$384.90 was made out to David Targan for emergency materials. Amount on hand now is \$3210.43.
 - Motion to accept report, seconded, and approved.

4. Monadnock SP manager's Update

- The day use is \$16,593 since the start of calendar year, which is a 1.56% increase of period from last year. There have been 2768 people, which is an increase of 1.42%. The camping total so far for 2016 is \$678 which is an increase of 1.72%. The retail operation has made just under \$10,000, primarily from the sale of microspikes.
- First day hike-73 participants, 53 adults, 20 kids. The structure was more self-guided this year.
- Mt Patrol-3 major incidents so far, 1 walk out and 2 carry outs.
- Winter projects-
 - renovating buildings and work spaces,
 - clean out of all work spaces
 - energy efficiency upgrades throughout park
 - Old Toilet Building workshop conversion
 - Ranger office rehab and remodel
 - Sign rehab
 - Test pit dug for composting unit
- Upcoming projects
 - Water line fix
 - Continue Main entrance landscaping and beautification projects
- Requirement has been downgraded from Wilderness First Responder to Wilderness First Aid. The original cost was \$945 but is now decreased to \$175 plus \$35 for CPR.
- Request for WFA scholarship for Mountain Patrol Volunteer for the same amount as Beth.

- Motion to fund Beth and Patrol Volunteer with a total cost of \$420, seconded, and approved.

5. Monadnock SP Volunteer Program update

- No update from volunteer program as it had not started up for the year
- Concern was voiced about dog ban on Monadnock and the lack of enforcement training
 - Signage is in place at all trailheads informing users about rules
 - Tara is currently working with several managers on updating signage for education
 - The training involved in being able to write tickets was discussed

6. SPNHF update

- The 11th annual Monadnock Trails Week will be July 15th -19th
 - Possible projects include Pumpelly, Parker trails
 - An additional staff person may be hired prior to the event
- Money is being found to redo the lots at North and South Gap
- 2-3 weeks with pro crews on White Dot and White Cross
 - Last year 10 days with Off the Beaten Path on White Dot and they will be asked to return
 - Jolly Rovers 10 days August 19-28 on White Cross
- \$37,000 total projected spending
- Timber sale planning, Bay State Forestry to get a timber sale going in the Marlborough Trail area

7. MERE update

- Eco research started in 2007
- Meet the Mountain day will be April 23
 - Tables at Main Entrance discussing ecology, hiker safety
 - Falconer
 - Aim is to draw people specifically for that event and not just catch people who are already there
- Grad student is working on signage project regarding cairns
- Summit stewards will be present on weekends through the spring. There are several graduating, making it difficult to have coverage this summer
- Research is ongoing on snowshoe hare browse, red spruce, and the core samples taken from Thoreau's Bog

- Adopt a crevice community project ongoing, Dublin School will be coming out in May
- Several of the members are working on an alpine plant guide

8. Division of Parks and Recreation Update

- Ledge was encountered when tests pits were dug for the new composting bathhouse
 - Cost estimates are being worked on for blasting for the basement
 - Hopefully the project will be out to bid by fall, with construction beginning next spring
- Discover the Power of Parks
 - The interpretive ranger will be splitting time between Greenfield and Monadnock for the summer
 - There will be three at Monadnock this fall
- There has been a bad ski season at Cannon. The snowmaking and grooming staffs have been reassigned to other parks projects.
- Revenue overall is up 14-15% over the previous year
- There is record number of advance camping reservations for Memorial Day weekend

9. New Master Plan Needs and Parking Lot Expansion

- Yes, there is a need to revisit the master plan
- Parking discussion
 - The second lot at the park headquarters should be paved
 - Parking should be expanded to meet current use levels
 - Introducing reservable parking spots
 - Any change in the parking situation needs to incorporate back trail head monitoring
- Discussion on usefulness of the Park obtaining the pond and dam
 - There may be money to restore the dam in Capitol funds
 - People do not come to Monadnock for much other than hiking
 - Pond may be a useful swimming area

10. Update on the Pipeline and the Fitzwilliam Prime Wetland Study-Beth Kintz is asked to Chair, she accepts

- Fitzwilliam recently completed a study of the town wetlands
 - 3rd or 5th in state for amount of wetlands
 - Town council needs to decide what levels of protection are going to be emplaced on those wetlands
- The Proposed pipeline goes through Rhododendron State Park
 - There are no prime wetlands in Rhododendron, just protective vegetation
 - The existing powerline corridor has significant wheeled vehicle traffic impact
 - Eversource currently does not allow wheeled traffic on their land but does no enforcement
- A hundred question list has been sent to Kendrick Morgan based on their initial proposal
- Motion- MAC votes to recommend that the State of New Hampshire votes to deny access for Kendrick Morgan and/or their affiliates to Rhododendron State Park Properties, seconded, discussion called for
- DRED cannot deny access to their property. The property is not posted and an agency alone cannot make a decision on the pipeline by denying access
- 227-d:5 powers of the commission assist the department in acquiring lands and rights in land to insure a consistent management of these lands and their connecting trail corridors
- Case law shows that companies must abide with state and organizational issues that arise. They can then work to override those complaints but cannot ignore them
- Motion-to develop a letter to DRED voicing MAC's concerns so that DRED, as an intervener, can take that into account, seconded, second is withdrawn, motion is withdrawn
- The motion was requested to be reworded

- Motion-Robin and Heil put together a letter to send to DRED and before it is sent, it will be circulated around so everyone can see what is going on. The letter will outline MAC's opposition to the pipeline through Rhododendron State Park and the reasons. Phil advises making a connection to MAC's mission and statutes. Seconded, approved, DRED staff abstains, SPNHF abstains

11. Open Floor

- Issue brought up last meeting about relationship with town of Jaffrey
 - Parks is still in discussions with Jaffrey about the property lease
 - Central issue with the lease arose from Jaffrey wanting to charge for the lease
 - The State's policy is to pay for five years after acquiring rights to land and then letting the economic benefits to the local community from the park cover further costs to local towns

12. Set Date for next Meeting

- Nov 3, 2016 at 4pm

13. Adjourn