Monadnock Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes

Date: November 3, 2016
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: Monadnock State Park

ATTENDEES

✓ Ann Royce (Town of Jaffrey)
✓ Beth Kintz (Monadnock State Park)
✓ Carrie Deegan (SPNHF)
✓ Dave Adams (Town of Troy)
✓ Don Upton (Town of Troy)
✓ Ed Germain (Town of Dublin)
✓ Hiel Lundquist (Town of Fitzwilliam)
✓ Jane Difley (SPNHF)
✓ John Smith (Town of Jaffrey)
✓ Peter Palmiotto (Antioch, MERE)
✓ Phil Bryce (Parks & Recreation)
☐ Polly Pattison (Town of Marlborough)
✓ Robin Haynes (Chair, Town of Fitzwilliam)
✓ Sterling Abram (Town of Dublin)
✓ Tara Blaney (Parks & Recreation)
☐ Will Abbott (SPNHF)
✓ Dan Rogalski (Town of Marlborough)
✓ Wendy Weisiger (SPNHF)
✓ Sam Judson (Monadnock State Park)

AGENDA

1. Site visit to Monadnock SP - HQ
   - Toll Booth
     - Hopefully will be built this winter
     - There is road work needed for any of the proposed designs
   - Parking Lot Expansion
     - Second Lot is going to be widened
     - We are looking at expanding on both sides
     - Ledge on one side, significant drop on the other
     - Goal is to be paved and striped to increase self-parking capacity
   - Bathrooms
     - The OTB site is not appropriate for a composting toilet building due to ledge
     - New pit toilets may be appropriate for that site
     - Other possible sites around the second lot and picnic area were looked at
   - Visitor Center
     - The possibility of creating a modular visitor center to be added onto as funds are available was raised

2. Welcome & Introductions

3. Review of minutes from previous meeting

4. MAC Financial Report

5. Division of Parks & Recreation update

6. Monadnock SP Manager’s update

7. Monadnock SP Volunteer Program update

8. SPNHF update

9. MERE update

10. Gap Mtn signage

11. Interpretation & Education planning

12. Open Floor

13. Set date for next meeting

14. Adjourn

Guests:

☐ Will Abbott (SPNHF)
Johanna Lyons - DRED

☐ Dan Rogalski (Town of Marlborough)
Tom Mansfield - DRED

✓ Wendy Weisiger (SPNHF)
Lee Willette - Monadnock SP/vol. coordinator

✓ Sam Judson (Monadnock State Park)
Frank Bequart – SPNHF volunteer
- There are three possible locations; behind the current store site, between the “wasteland” and the reservoir, and on the current site of the Main Toilet Building
- The “wasteland” needs continuing work

- Additional questions
  - Does the master plan need to be updated? No consensus or motions
  - What is the human carrying capacity of the mountain?
  - What is the impact of the park on local towns?
  - What technology is available to address capacity issues?

Tom Mansfield presents blueprints
- Ideas for the visitor center/composting toilet behind current store
- Two separate possibilities
  - One lot with 80 spots, little dirt work
  - One with 113 spots, far more site work required
- Toll booth plans may change the structure of the first lot
- Picnic area should be maintained as a park like setting, despite parking

- Recapping points made during walk around
  - We need retail space, office, restrooms in the visitor center
  - The possibility of a classroom space was brought up by Peter (Antioch)
  - Friends of Monadnock concept might still be available to raise funding for these projects
  - Congestion patterns and purpose of the building should be thought of rather than just putting a building as an emergency measure

2. Welcome & Introductions

3. Review of minutes from previous meeting
  - Motion to approve the minutes, seconded, passed

4. MAC Financial Report
  - Balance at last meeting $3230.43
  - Expenditures = $445.05
    - New checks, 25.05
    - Two checks to Christopher Kintz and Beth Kintz which were approved at the previous meeting for WFA and CPR $210 per person
  - Current balance is $2785.38

5. Division of Parks & Recreation update

6. Monadnock SP Manager’s update
   HQ day use visitation ytd 92,804
   - Youth Group Camping collected on site $18156
   - Retail $92407
   - OTR 16,270 visitors, Day Use Dollars $72,704
   - GPA only one turn away day leading to lower totals
   - 2775 visitors, Day Use Dollars $11243
   - Camping $13644
   - Retail $17424
   - Iron Rangers
     - $5193.70
   - All areas, revenue up, but visitation a little lower

   - Spring start up came early
   - Police Detail on Columbus Day was very helpful, will look to expand that coverage, especially at OTR
   - Maintenance Supervisor role created and aimed at addressing the maintenance backlog around the park
   - Renovated office building, Repaired Main water line
- Ski Trails and Nature Trail were finally dug out

7. Monadnock SP Volunteer Program update
   - 49 volunteers, over 1900 hours this year
     - 600 hours trail work
       - trails Week 657 hours
       - x country ski trails 75 hours on 5 miles of ski trails
     - 127 hours ops
     - 199 hours SAR assistance
     - 700 Mt. Patrol Hours
     - 28 summit hosting
     - 90 hours camp hosting
     - 22 hours litter and graffiti removal
     - 5 hours sign making
     - 22 hours training
     - 115 coordinator hours
   - Next summer, interpretive work will be done on the nature trail

8. SPNHF update
   - Great trails week
     - 55 volunteers
   - 2 Pro Crews working, OTBP and the Jolly Rovers
   - Timber harvest around Marlborough trail
   - Starting around December, approximately 1 month long operation
   - In the next year or two, further harvesting will be done
   - Interpretive work will be done to engage the hiking community
   - No plans for SPNFH to improve Shaker Farm Road, still a town road and Jaffrey is responsible

9. MERE update
   - Cairn Signage study
     - 50% of visitors are unaware of their purpose
     - New signage developed, initial studies show that signs help with awareness and usefulness
   - Meet the MT day went well
   - Summit stewards reached about 1500 people
   - Lots of time spent at the trail head this year
   - Next year, research plots will be resampled

10. Gap Mtn signage

11. Interpretation & Education planning
    - Student Conservation Association partnership discussion
    - SCA carries out education program for the Parks, both in the parks and in schools
    - SCA Conservation Corps does trail work around the state
    - Plan is being discussed to supplement the SCA at Monadnock with an Antioch Intern
    - Guides are still not selling well

12. Open Floor
    - Guides are still not selling well

13. Set date for next meeting
    - Next meeting set for March 23, 2017 4 pm

14. Adjourn
    - Motion to adjourn, seconded and carried