

Statewide Trails Advisory Committee

February 6, 2013

DRED Conference Room

In Attendance

Members:

- Chris Gamache NH Trails Bureau
- Al Cooper New Hampshire Snowmobile Association (NHSA)
- Debbie Briscoe NH Horse Council
- Peter DeSantis New England Mtn Bike Association (NEMBA)
- Larry Keniston NH DOT Bike/Ped
- Bob Rimol NH Rails to Trails (NHRTC)
- Jack Wheeler NH Off Highway Vehicle Association (NHOHVA)
- Tom DiMaggio New Hampshire Musers Association (NHMA) (Chair)
- Jack Champman Friends of Massabesic Mountain Biking Association (FOMBA)
- Jack Waldron Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPNHF)
- Denis Laliberte EFTA/Educators
- Kevin Jordan, Major Fish & Game

Staff:

- Megan DeNutte NH Trails Bureau

Guests:

- Gerry Gold SRK Greenway Coalition
- Brian Harjula Merrimack Valley Trail Riders
- Matt Caron NEMBA
- Harry Brown North Country OHRV Coalition
- Raynold Jackson Trailwrights
- Bruce Richards Trailwrights
- Hal Graham Trailwrights

Open Meeting

7:03 PM, meeting called to order.

Introductions

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

Review Minutes

Minutes from the September 12, 2012 meeting reviewed and approved.

Member Updates

Major Kevin Jordan of NH Fish and Game presented a power point on NH Fish and Game and discussed HB 256. He presented committee members with a search and rescue fact sheet. He urged committee members to contact senators and legislators in regards to this important bill.

Bike and Ped Program Update by Larry Keniston, DOT, was postponed until next meeting.

OHRV/Snowmobile Update

Snowmobile season started well. Potential for a foot of snow the coming weekend. Rain the previous weekend did a lot of damage to trails. More snow is needed. 8 inches of snow state wide could benefit trails for the rest of the winter. Reciprocity weekend was the last weekend of January. Good traffic in NH. Little traffic in VT due to lack of snow. The Easter Seals Ride-in held the first weekend of February raised \$81,000. Although there was rain the previous week, Millsfield, Errol and Jericho Mountain State Park in Berlin still had good riding.

Coos Loop update by Harry Brown: Colebrook, Berlin, Stewartstown. Many northern communities are on board to allow ATVing on town roads to reach services. Large loop should be completed by June. Harry is very positive about the economic development that will occur in northern NH. "Grand Opening" of loop will be held on June 15, 2013 at Coleman State Park.

Recreational Trails Program

\$900,000 available to grantees. 2013 RTP had an application deadline of January 18, 2013. 72 applications were received and a total of \$1.4 million was requested. RTP Selection meeting is scheduled to be held on March 20 or 27, 2013. Selection committee is made up of STAC committee members. 2 members from the motorized community, 2 members from the non-motorized committee, and 2 staff members from DRED/Trails.

Heritage Trail Update

No new updates.

New Business

Unauthorized trail building on public lands. Chris Gamache asked committee members to get the word out to their user groups to not build on trails without landowner permission. Issue in Lakes Region with individual building mountain bike trails on State Forest.

Legislative updates (Search and Rescue, Landowner Liability, etc). Committee was given copies of HB 256 and SB 108. SB 108 is specific to trail construction and landowner liability, which came about related to cross country ski trails built on private property and a claimed filed by an employee of the construction company. HB 256 is a bill to create voluntary hiker card and to bill everyone needing rescue services on trails; unless they have a hunting/fishing license or OHRV/snowmobile/boat registration.

Old Business

Bear Brook mountain bike proposal update: NEMBA closed Little Bear trail, built two new trails and two new kiosks.

Guest Comments/Questions

Next meeting

Next meeting is set for Wednesday May 8, 2013 at 7 pm at DRED HQ.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.