

Statewide Trails Advisory Committee

May 8, 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
- Jack Wheeler NH Off Highway Vehicle Association (NHOHVA)
- Tom DiMaggio New Hampshire Mushers Association (NHMA) (Chair)
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Staff:

- Megan DeNutte NH Trails Bureau

Guests:

- Gerry Gold SRK Greenway Coalition
- Brian Harjula Merrimack Valley Trail Riders
- Raynold Jackson Trailwrights
- Phil Bryce Director, Division of Parks & Recreation

Open Meeting

7:05 PM, meeting called to order.

Introductions

Members and guests introduced themselves and their affiliations.

Review Minutes

Minutes from the February 6, 2012 meeting reviewed and approved.

Member Updates

Larry Keniston, NH DOT Bike/Ped Program Coordinator, gave a powerpoint presentation on DOT work and how it is funded. He spends 90% of his time on issues related to bicycle and pedestrian issue on highways. Bicyclists and pedestrians do not primarily rely on trails, they generally use the highway system. USDOT and NHDOT recognize that pedestrians and bicyclists impose a light footprint on the highway system in terms of space, weight and speed and therefore encourage these forms of transportation.

OHRV/Snowmobile Update

Snowmobile season was decent. Registration numbers lowered than budgeted for, but much better than last year. Estimate about 42,000 registered snowmobiles; budget based upon about 55,000.

Coos Loop "Ride the Wilds" event is June 15th at Coleman State Park. This event will open up an OHRV trail from Jericho Mtn State Park (Berlin) to Pittsburg. Other links in Coos County will open up throughout the summer when they are ready. Major undertaking for summer motorized trails in Coos County. Lot of cooperation from groups/agencies/towns.

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 September 25, 2013 at 7 pm at DRED HQ.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM.