

**MOUNT WASHINGTON COMMISSION**  
**March 25, 2022 MINUTES** (*Approved 04/22/2022*)

A regular meeting of the Mount Washington Commission (MWC) was held at the AMC Highland Center at Crawford Notch, Bretton Woods.

**Call to Order.** Chairman Bradley called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m., with a quorum present. He thanked the AMC for hosting the meeting. PRESENT were Sen Jeb Bradley/Senate, Ed Bergeron/for Public, Dir Phil Bryce/Div Parks and Rec, Derek Ibarguen/WMNF, Paul Ingersoll/for Public, Jack Middleton/MWObs, Wayne Presby/Cog Railway, Tobey Rechert as designee for Howie Wemyss/Auto Road, Drew Scamman/Townsquare Media, Chris Thayer/AMC, and Rep Karen Umberger/House. Also in attendance were DNCR Commissioner Stewart, Allen Brooks/DOJ for the MWC, summit partners, State Park employees, and several members of the public.

**Minutes.** Mr Bergeron MOVED to accept the minutes of March 4, 2022; SECONDED by Mr Middleton. The minutes were APPROVED as written.

Mr Books informed the members that the Right-To-Know request addressed to the MWC regarding the Cog's Lizzie Station proposal pertains to records that relate to the Commission's business and not to documents that are between private parties. Members should be responsive and should contact Mr Brooks directly with any questions about the request.

Chair Bradley addressed the Commission and attendees as a courtesy: the purpose of today's meeting is to continue the Commission's work on the master plan. With no new information about the Cog's Lizzie's Station proposal, the item will not be discussed.

**Master Plan.** Chair Bradley and the members continued their discussion on each item listed in the Summary of Comments to identify areas where they agreed and areas that require additional discussion, picking up from where they left off at Item #66. See Summary of Comments document (*forthcoming*) updated by Mr Brooks, including notes on the discussion and revisions to the text.

While working on Item #77 regarding bathroom facilities and amenities, the members discussed surveying visitors during high use days to obtain visitor counts and better understand visitor expectations and needs, such as accessibility. Ideas included counters at trailheads and at the entryway of the Sherman Adams Building (SAB). The visitor survey concept will be added to the next agenda.

Chair Bradley addressed the public during the lunch break: the MWC is an advisory board to the Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources; we generally meet quarterly to discuss summit operations; and that we are currently meeting monthly to work on an updated Master Plan for the summit. During lunch, scientist Georgia Murray presented AMC's findings on Climate & Conservation Research on Mount Washington and the region.

Discussion on the Summary of Comments continued with major themes centering around the balancing of visitor needs and summit partner success with environmental and sustainability goals; the need for facility maintenance and upgrades; and prioritizing public and staff safety.

Members discussed the major upgrades made to Pike Peak in Colorado and will download and review the new [Pikes Peak Summit Experience app](#). Mr Duval will contact representatives from Pikes Peak to see if they could attend a MWC meeting to share their experiences after completing major renovations.

Dir Bryce provided a draft summary of Mt Washington State Park leases, dated 03/24/2022. Members determined that they were making good progress on the Master Plan discussions, but would consider the hire of a facilitator if and when necessary.

Mr Jamie Sayen of Stratford spoke. He said that a thorough and independent environmental assessment should be conducted to determine current conditions of the summit flora, fauna and climate before a Master Plan is completed. He thought that human aspirations may exceed the capability of the land. Chair Bradley thanked Mr Sayen for his comments.

**AOB.** The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at the Pope Memorial Library in North Conway. Another meeting is scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at Peabody Lodge, Cannon Mountain.

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

*Submitted by T. Tango-Lowy, MWC clerk.*