

Monadnock Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Date: November 2, 2017

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Jaffrey Civic Center

| ATTENDEES | AGENDA |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ann Royce (Town of Jaffrey) | 1. Welcome & Introductions |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beth Kintz (Monadnock State Park) | 2. Review of minutes from previous meeting |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carrie Deegan (SPNHF) | 3. MAC Financial Report |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dave Adams (Town of Troy) | 4. Division of Parks & Recreation update |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Upton (Town of Troy) | 5. Monadnock SP Manager's update |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ed Germain (Town of Dublin) | 6. SPNHF update |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hiel Lundquist (Town of Fitzwilliam) | 7. MERE update |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jane Difley (SPNHF) | 8. Master Plan update |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Smith (Town of Jaffrey) | 9. Open |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Palmiotto (Antioch, MERE) | 10. Set date for next meeting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phil Bryce (Parks & Recreation) | 11. Adjourn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Polly Pattison (Town of Marlborough) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robin Haynes (Chair, Town of Fitzwilliam) | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sterling Abram (Town of Dublin) | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tara Blaney (Parks & Recreation) | Guests: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dan Rogalski (Town of Marlborough) | Tom Mansfield |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wendy Weisiger (SPNHF) | Johanna Lyons |
| | |
| | |

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Review of minutes from previous meeting
 - Correction – Under the Division of Parks & Recreation update → Legislation → Bill to study leasing Hampton to the town → “The State put “\$1million” into Hampton in bond payments...”
 - With the correction made, motion to approve the minutes, seconded, and carried
3. MAC Financial Report
 - No expenditures since the last meeting on March 23, 2017
 - Balance \$2,795.38
 - Motion to use MAC funds to make a donation of \$25/MAC meeting to the Jaffrey Civic Center, seconded, and carried
 - i. The first donation will be made after the November 2, 2017 meeting
4. Division of Parks & Recreation update
 - The Division is looking into putting a Request for Proposal to study the carrying capacity of both Mount Washington and Monadnock State Parks.

- Update on the Headquarters bathroom expansion and toll booth:
 - Bathroom
 - Will be putting an addition onto the existing bathroom building located at the main trailhead
 - This facility will be winterized and will have a heated breezeway between the new and old sections of the building
 - The facility would now have two women’s rooms, two men’s rooms, one family styled bathroom, and a chase way/storage area
 - The current conceptual design allows for potential future expansion to allow for a connected visitor center/retail/office structure
 - DES may require that the septic system/leach field is expanded due to the increase capacity
 - An outside architect will be hired to due the design work on this project
 - In order to make full use of available Federal LWCF dollars with project will be completed by December 2018
 - Toll Booth
 - Conceptual model one: two entrance lanes and a dedicated exit road leading from the far end of the existing first parking lot to Poole Road halfway between the existing toll booth and the park residence
 - This model had operational disadvantages because of the disconnect between the exit and the toll booth and will not allow staff the easily collect user fees from early arrival hikers as they exit the park
 - Conceptual model two: two entrance lanes and a dedicated exit road at the toll booth
 - This model will work better for the current model of park operations however, space is limited and a stone wall will need to be moved

5. Monadnock SP Manager’s update

Park Visitation & Revenue (Jan 1st – Oct 31st): (\$ totals reflect amount collected on site and does not include reservation fees collected by RA)

| Headquarters | 2017 | 2016 | +/- |
|----------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| Day Use Visitation..... | 90,341..... | 92,804 | -2,463 |
| Day Use \$..... | \$397,848..... | \$413,645 | -\$15,797 |
| Camping..... | \$13,945..... | \$18,156 | -\$4,211 |
| Retail..... | \$84,533..... | \$92,407 | -\$7,874 |
| TOTAL \$ | \$496,326..... | \$524,208 | -\$27,882 |
| Old Toll Road | | | |
| Day Use Visitation..... | 16,971..... | 16,272 | +699 |
| Day Use \$..... | \$75,944..... | \$72,754 | +\$3,190 |
| TOTAL \$ | \$75,944..... | \$72,754 | +\$3,190 |
| Gilson Pond Area | | | |
| Day Use Visitation..... | 2,264..... | 2,775 | -511 |
| Day Use \$..... | \$10,783..... | \$11,243 | -\$460 |
| Camping..... | \$14,841..... | \$13,644 | +\$1,197 |
| Retail..... | \$19,607..... | \$17,424 | +\$2,183 |
| TOTAL \$ | \$45,231..... | \$42,311 | +\$2,920 |
| Iron Rangers | | | |
| Gap North..... | \$334..... | \$371 | -\$37 |
| Gap South..... | \$603..... | \$559 | +\$44 |
| Dublin Trailhead | \$1,496..... | \$1,282 | +\$214 |
| Marlboro Trailhead..... | \$1,284..... | \$862 | +\$422 |
| Rhododendron SP..... | \$1,967..... | \$1,384 | +\$583 |
| TOTAL \$ | \$5,684..... | \$4,458 | +\$1,226 |
| TOTAL +/- REVENUE..... | -\$20,546 | | |
| TOTAL +/- VISITATION | -22,275 | | |

Average temperature for the end of February through March 2017 is 10.26 degrees cooler than 2016

NO “turn-away” days in 2017 due to rainy fall foliage holiday weekends

- Big summer weekends
 - Memorial Day
 - GPA campground all but 4 sites full
 - 4th of July
 - GPA campground full
 - Labor Day
 - GPA campground all but 1 site full
- Columbus Day
 - GPA campground all but 4 sites full
 - No turn away
 - Wet weather on Sunday
 - Rain on Monday

Projects

- Main Toilet Building renovations
 - New plumbing infrastructure
 - New fixtures
 - New sinks/counters
 - Installation of hand dryers to replace paper towel dispensers
 - Interior refinishing of walls, ceiling and trim
 - Installation of energy efficient water heater and lighting
- Residence electrical upgrade
- Hazard tree removal in campground, picnic areas and other developed areas.
- Installation of new kiosks for HQ, GPA, Dublin and Marlboro Trailheads with new park rules signs
- Installation of a new vault toilet in the second lot at HQ
- Landscaping at HQ around office and trailhead
 - Parking definition and edging
 - Flower beds and grass planting
- Waiting on installation of Gallow sign at the bottom of Poole Road

Mountain Patrol

- Responded to 20 incidents
 - 12 walk out assists
 - 6 carryouts
 - 2 lifeflights
- Continuing problems with the designated radio frequency (Miller Repeater)
 - Poor local/in-park communication and a large “radio shadow” on the Mtn where comms are not possible
 - Not able to communicate with local Fire and PD
 - Has caused friction between the local FD/PD and the park
 - To help the situation, when the park talks with dispatch we now specify which channel comms for the incident will take place on (most likely the “old Monadnock” frequency, “Tramway”)
 - Consistent interference from MA PD dispatch
 - Looking into switching to a digital system for Management, Mtn Patrol, and the park HQ toll both so that comms can be maintained with local FD/PD, DHART and NH Fish & Game all of whom have already gone to a digital system
- Held several “mini patrol clinics” throughout the summer for the staff
 - How to set up litter/litter belay
 - Basic first aid, splinting, and patient assessment
 - “When a call comes in procedure” what questions to ask and who to notify
 - How to set up/use O2 and regulator

Volunteer Program

- Total of 46 Volunteers signed up in the program
- Total of 1,332 hours logged so far in 2017
- The Nature Trail project saw 200 hours of work during Monadnock Trails Week: bog bridging, trail surfacing, etc.
 - Interpretive work will begin next season
- All trails are adopted except for the White Cross next season

6. SPNHF update

- Monadnock Trails Week saw over 100 participants and over 1,000 of work over the course of the event which included nine different project areas:
 - Removal of two culverts, installation of two box culverts, and 500 feet of turn piking at the beginning of the White Dot trail
 - Re-route of the Royce trail due to severe erosion
 - Continued work on the Pumpelly staircase
 - Nature Trail
 - Pond Loop
- Professional crew (Off the Beaten Path) was hired for two full hitches to continue trail hardening/staircase work on the White Dot
- Next season the professional crews will be and work during Trails Week will be focused on areas other than the main trails leading from Headquarters
- Parking lot and kiosk improvements were made at both the Gap South and Gap North areas
- To limit damage to the newly graded parking lots, gates may be installed and closed for mud seasons
- Road improvements were made to Shaker Farm road for the logging operation
- A timber harvest (~50 acers) is scheduled for the winter of 2017/2018 off the Marlboro Trail (~1 mile up the trail but below 2,000 feet elevation point to stay below the Eco Reserve area) and will utilize the landing beyond the parking area
 - The road will be posted for no parking in order to maintain access for logging trucks
- An interpretive timbers harvest is being planned for next season in the area of the Marlboro Trail

7. MERE update

- Two stewards were on the Mountain this year working with local school groups and general park visitors to teach about alpine stewardship
 - Adopt a Crevice Community project with both Keene and Dublin High Schools continues
- Summer research projects
 - A complete 10 year resampling of the study plots (1,800 feet and above) on the Mountain
 - Fuel load study 10 years post ice storm damage
 - New project for next season – study on what makes Monadnock a sacred place to so many visitors

8. Master Plan update

- Johanna Lyons has taken the notes from the Master Plan meeting held on May 3, 2017 and will be compiling the discussed information into an updated document to be shared at the 2018 spring MAC meeting
- The update will be sent to MAC members prior to the meeting

9. Open

- Two weekends following Columbus Day saw very heavy visitation and a lot of Route 124 roadside parking
 - Park staff alerted Jaffrey Police Department about the potential problem
- When will the visitation/revenue data be available?
 - In the annual report submitted after the first of the new year
 - As in previous years, the annual report will be submitted to MAC members via email
- Rhododendron State Park/Little Monadnock signage
 - 2017 requested replacement signs were not put into production last season
 - These requests will be resubmitted for this season with hopeful install 2018 spring dates
 - Patch Cottage will be receiving Moose Plate dollars through Division of Historic Resources for renovations, with wooden shutters to be installed on all of the windows in the meantime.
- Thank you to Dan Rogalski for mowing the meadow at Gap

10. Set date for next meeting

- Spring meeting – March 22nd from 4pm to 6pm at the Jaffrey Civic Center

11. Adjourn