

MOUNT SUNAPEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RSA 21-G:11)
June 3, 2014 MINUTES *(approved on 10/14/14)*

A regular meeting of the Mount Sunapee Advisory Committee (MSAC) was held at the Newbury Town Offices meeting room on June 3, 2014.

Call to Order. Commissioner Jeffrey J. Rose, as chairman called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Members present were Melanie Bell/Town of Goshen, Director Philip Bryce/Div. Parks and Recreation, Bill Carpenter, designee for Div. Forests and Lands, Tim Drew/DES, Pete Fenton, designee for LSRCC, June Fichter/LSPA, Nancy Marashio/SPNHF, Rachel Ruppel, designee for UVLSRPC, and Dan Wolf/Town of Newbury.

Also present were Jay Gamble and Michelle Chadwick/Mount Sunapee Resort, Gerry Gold/SRKG, Doug O'Clair/ Goshen Planning Board chairman, Greg Smith of Goshen, Catherine Bushueff, and Torene Tango-Lowy/MWC clerk.

Minutes. Ms. Marashio moved to approve the minutes of 06/11/13; seconded by Mr. Drew. The minutes were adopted as written.

AOP 2014-2015. Mr. Gamble reported on the projects listed in the previous AOP that were completed. Mount Sunapee Resort's Adventure Park won Yankee Magazine's "Best Obstacle Course" Editor's Choice award for 2014. He briefed the committee on each section of the AOP 2014-2015. They plan to open their 17th winter season on Nov. 28, 2014, and remain open through April 12, 2015, weather permitting. For the past five years, they have been averaging 700 hours per season for snowmaking. The Waffle Cabin was a great success, reporting #1 in sales of the three cabins operating in NH.

Mr. Gamble answered Director Bryce's inquiry about emergency procedures. Mount Sunapee Resort will request Special Use Permits for their continued use of certain DRED areas (pg. 23). Their four diesel air compressors are no longer in service: eliminating the need for a State Permit to Operate. The state beach was used for overflow parking eight times, and averages 4-5 times per year. Sand at the beach is swept up at the end of each winter season.

A 50% decrease in energy usage was achieved with the replacement of the 1962 boiler in Spruce Lodge with a propane-fired, two stage dual boiler system. The replacement, 139 to date, of inefficient snowmaking guns with SV-10 snow guns that use 25% of compressed air compared to the older snow guns has resulted in significant energy savings.

Mount Sunapee Resort plans an estimated \$1.5 million in new capital projects and capital maintenance for 2014. The major new capital project is to replace the existing Sunbowl Quad chairlift with a high-speed Express Quad lift, contingent upon its delivery from Okemo. It will require upgrading the power line from the maintenance shop to Sunbowl. They also plan to install a climbing wall/gravity jump and a removable mining sluice to add to the summer Adventure Park offerings.

The committee members discussed with Mr. Gamble the proposed projects and items of interest in the AOP. Ms. Marashio reports that the SPNHF has no objections to the AOP. Commissioner

Rose asked that any other comments be provided to him by June 17, 2014. He will provide Mount Sunapee Resort with his written response on the AOP by June 30, 2014.

MDP/EMP 2015-2019. The plans were distributed to the committee members, and will be posted on the MSAC webpage within a week. Mount Sunapee Resort also distributes copies to the local communities. The committee briefly discussed the public involvement process, including a public hearing co-facilitated by DRED and the UVLSRPC. Information and a schedule will be posted on the webpage, but the hearing is likely to occur in late August following the Craftsmen's Fair.

Mount Sunapee Resort Update. Much of the operations update was given in the review of the AOP. The Memorial Day weekend provided a good summer start despite the weather predictions. Mount Sunapee Resort is becoming a four season activity center, providing a variety of recreational offerings at non-fee and a range of fee-based pricing. Snowshoe trails and hunting activities were discussed.

Any Other Business. Commissioner Rose opened the floor to public comment. Mr. Gold complimented Mr. Gamble on the overall recreation plan, adding that the summit trail is well-designed, easy to maintain, and provides effective separation between winter users.

The Town of Goshen established a Recreation District zoning at town meeting last March, enabling certain business operations within the district. Mr. O'Clair, speaking as the Planning Board chairman, said the Recreation District overlay includes lands beyond the ski area, and that the Town of Goshen supports expansion of the ski area.

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Torene Tango-Lowy, MSAC clerk