

**Mount Sunapee Advisory Committee Meeting** (*Minutes pending approval*)  
**May 14, 2009 at Newbury Town Hall**

**Committee members present:**

DRED Commissioner George Bald, Committee Chairman  
Nancy Marashio, Society for the Protection of NH Forests  
Dan Wolf, Town of Newbury  
Ted Austin, Division of Parks and Recreation  
Tim Drew, Dept of Environmental Services  
Don Kent, Division of Forests and Lands designee

**Members absent:**

Melanie Bell, Town of Goshen (excused)  
Vacant, c/o Rob Bryant, Lake Sunapee Region Chamber of Commerce  
Gordon Marshall, Lake Sunapee Protective Association  
Christine Walker, UVLSRPC

**Others present:** Jay Gamble, Vice President Mount Sunapee Resort; Torene Tango-Lowy, Committee clerk; several members of the public.

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**Welcome and Introductions** Commissioner Bald called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Committee members introduced themselves.

**Minutes** Ms. Marashio motioned to accept the minutes of May 13, 2008, as written. Dr. Kent seconded. Motion carries.

**Old Business** There was no old business.

**New Business** Commissioner Bald informed the Committee that CNL Lifestyle purchased the lease agreement and Mount Sunapee Resort (MSR) will continue to operate the ski area. CNL also holds Mount Washington Hotel and has a good working relationship with the State.

Commissioner Bald asked Mr. Gamble to present Mount Sunapee Resort's Annual Operating Plan (AOP) for 2009. Mr. Gamble reported a good 2008-2009 winter season, but closed early on April 5 rather than April 12 as planned, due to rainy weather. The ice storm caused a five day closure with power spikes damaging transformers and equipment. \$30K in emergency repairs were made last December, with an additional \$90,000 in repairs to be made in early summer.

Mr. Gamble provided an overview of the AOP: The schedule of operation for the sky rides and events are on page 6. The winter operating schedule is on page 8, along with the ski season statistics. The comfortable carrying capacity (CCC) for the ski area is 5,220 guests, but 4,400 guests is more typical on a "busy" day. MSR's overall utilization ranges between 35-36%; New England ski areas usually run 34%.

All of the Special Use Permits with DRED have been renewed. Mount Sunapee Resort is working with their solid waste carrier to provide single-stream recycling, to include paper, plastic, glass and aluminum in the same waste container. In 2008, Mount Sunapee Resort installed 30 new energy efficient snow guns and plans to install another 10 this summer. Additionally, motion sensors will be installed in the restrooms. Over the past four years, their electrical energy conservation efforts have resulted in a 13.78% savings.

Purchase of renewable energy credits is not planned this year, as direct investment in energy efficiencies is deemed more beneficial at this time. Mount Sunapee Resort will continue its signage improvements. The spray field project is planned for implementation this year. The goal is to have the lagoons empty by late October to mitigate potential meteorological events.

Mount Sunapee Resort anticipates capital maintenance spending for 2009 to be approximately \$425,000. No major capital improvement projects are planned for this summer. Mount Sunapee Resort is currently working on its updated Master Development Plan (MDP) 2009-2014, with an anticipated delivery date to DRED on June 1.

Other work planned include: a) a novice gladed trail adjacent to the Province Trail on South Peak; b) replacing a section of snowmaking pipe on Lower Flying Goose; and c) kitchen equipment upgrades. Mount Sunapee Resort received good reviews in Ski magazine for their food service.

Commissioner Bald asked if committee members had any comments. Mr. Drew commended Mount Sunapee Resort on its involvement in DES's Green Program initiatives. DES has published its new storm water and erosion controls manual, available online. DES has reviewed Mount Sunapee Resort's air permit and found no issues. DES will continue to work with Mount Sunapee Resort on its spray irrigation project. The committee had no other comments. Commissioner Bald requested any other comments within seven days.

Commissioner Bald provided members with the NH Statement of Financial Interest, required of members serving on State boards by RSA 15-A. Statements should be mailed to the Secretary of State's office.

**Next Meeting Date** The next meeting will be at the call of the Chairman.

**Public Comment** Commissioner Bald opened the floor to public comment.

Rob Martin, Newport expressed concern about Chandler Brook; that it runs brown during heavy rain events. The brook is a major smelt run. DRED will investigate.

Catherine Bushueff, Sunapee inquired about the campground access road. The road is maintained jointly and is open to the public. Ms. Bushueff asked about the Sky Lift. Mr. Gamble said the operation schedule has been consistent over the past seven years. Utilization is weak; 250 riders are needed to break even. The lift is popular in the Fall, but averages only 75 riders in July. More summer activities are needed to draw riders. Ms. Bushueff asked about the New England Handicapped Sports Association (NEHSA) facility. Mr. Gamble responded that NEHSA's proposed facility was included and approved in a previous Master Development Plan. It is currently in the permitting process.

Tom Elliott, Friends of Mount Sunapee asked about the septic system replacement. Mr. Gamble responded that the system was replaced in 2006. It was listed in a previous AOP, and was not an emergency action. The project may have recently received press coverage as a public relations effort by the project consultant, Presby Environmental.

Rob Martin asked about the gravel service road at the summit. Mr. Gamble said it was built in 1998 as part of the proposal for immediate improvements upon lease signing and approved by then DRED Commissioner Rob Thompson.

Tom Elliott asked what CNL's role was in the MDP. Mr. Gamble said that CNL was an real estate investment trust, and is not operationally involved.

There were no other public comments. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

*Minutes submitted by T. Tango-Lowy.*