

MOUNT WASHINGTON COMMISSION
October 29, 2021 MINUTES (*Approved 01/21/22*)

A regular meeting of the Mount Washington Commission (MWC) was held at Cannon Mountain Peabody Lodge.

Call to Order. Chairman Bradley called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Introductions were made and Chair Bradley thanked Mr. DeVivo for hosting the meeting. PRESENT were Sen Jeb Bradley/Senate, Ed Bergeron/for Public, Dir Phil Bryce/Div Parks and Rec, Paul Fitzgerald/for Public, Derek Ibarguen/WMNF, Jack Middleton/MWObs, Wayne Presby/Cog Railway. Drew Scamman/Townsquare Media, Chris Thayer/AMC, and Rep Karen Umberger/House. Paul Ingersoll/for Public and Howie Wemyss/Auto Road were EXCUSED. Several members of the public and state employees were in attendance, including Harvard Negotiation and Mediation Clinical Program (HNMCP) advisor Rachel Viscomi, and students Seorae Ko, Erin Savoie, and Lowry Yankwich.

Minutes. Mr Middleton MOVED to accept the minutes of September 24, 2021; SECONDED by Mr Bergeron. The minutes were APPROVED as written by voice vote and Rep Umberger having abstained.

Capital Improvements. By separate email, Tom Mansfield provided an update on the Mount Washington capital projects. A copy is attached herein.

State Park Report & Operating Plan Review. Mt Washington State Park retail manager Christa Rousseau reported that the Sherman Adams Building (SAB) closed for the season on Oct. 17th with the last day of Cog operations to the summit. The MWObs museum closed on Oct. 12 and the Auto Road ceased operations to the summit on Oct. 24th. On par with 2018, the state park estimates 350K visitors in 2021. Retail is up 2.5%, having inventory from 2020 to compensate for the current supply problems. Renovations of the Tip Top House will be complete for a 2022 re-opening.

Master Plan. The Harvard Negotiation and Mediation Clinical Program (HNMCP) team reported on their findings thus far, including results of the interviews they held with summit partners and stakeholders. The team conducted several exercises during the meeting to promote open communications and discussion. A copy of their presentation and exercise notes are attached herein.

Commissioner Stewart said the exercises brought everyone out of their comfort zone, but generated great discussions. Ms. Tucker thanked Mr. Haley for bringing the HNMCP program to the Mount Washington Commission. Mr. Presby said there were several great ideas discussed at this meeting that could move the master planning effort forward.

The HNMCP team will provide the MWC with a draft of their findings and recommendations in the next month.

Partner Reports. Due to time constraints, partner reports were not given.

AOB. Those who wish to serve on the Master Plan Subcommittee are to let Chair Bradley know.

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 7, 2022, at 9 a.m. at the Pope Memorial Library in North Conway.

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Submitted by T. Tango-Lowy, MWC clerk.