

Monadnock Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: February 21, 2019

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Jaffrey Civic Center

ATTENDEES	AGENDA
<input type="checkbox"/> Ann Royce (Town of Jaffrey)	1. Welcome & Introductions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Will Kirkpatrick (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 checked="" 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. Open
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Smith (Town of Jaffrey)	9. Set date for next meeting
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peter Palmiotto (Antioch, MERE)	10. Adjourn
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phil Bryce (Parks & Recreation)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Polly Pattison (Town of Marlborough)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robin Blais (Chair, Town of Fitzwilliam)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sterling Abram (Town of Dublin)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tara Blaney (Parks & Recreation)	Guests:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dan Rogalski (Town of Marlborough)	Tom Mansfield – DCNR
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wendy Weisiger (SPNHF)	Inge Seaboyer – Forests and Lands

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Review of minutes from previous meeting

- Not everyone had received minutes from Sept 20 2018, will be sent out via e-mail.

3. MAC Financial Report

- Balance \$2,770.38

4. Monadnock SP Manager's update

- Will Kirkpatrick introduced himself, gave brief background:
 - Started at Monadnock with SCA's pilot year AmeriCorps program then based at the park
 - Then hired on as staff from 1995 through 2002, ending as Assistant Manager
 - Moved on to various roles with SCA, focusing on trail-construction, training, leadership development, and managing youth- and young-adult work crews across the East Coast.
 - Born in Peterborough, now lives in Harrisville.
 - Very excited to be back at Monadnock!
- Started in January, just getting up to speed. Covered topics for Manager's Update, will pull these items together for next meeting.

- Asked to add some information about staff – names, staffing levels, etc.
- Interviewing for Assistant Manager Friday, 2/22.
- Upcoming projects:
 - Focusing some attention on trails this year, with several SCA crew hitches and trying for a pro crew for 2-3 weeks using RTP grant. Priorities based on the 2014 Trail Assessment, focusing on the White Dot and White Cross. Trail projects are being put together, and will include:
 - Trail hardening
 - Steps and rip rap
 - Trail corridor narrowing and control
 - Trail relocation viability study
 - Need of these projects are determined by natural resource protection, visitor experience, and safety
- Dave Targan, Chief Mtn. Patrol, has been getting me up to speed on our new Non-Carry License, and all things Search and Rescue.

5. SPNHF update

- Jane Difley has given her notice of retirement. Search committee starting for new Executive Director. She was the 4th President in 100 years – the short-timer at 25 years!
- Historic buildings at the Rocks Estate(Bethlehem) burned down last week. There's a Christmas Tree farm and the North Country Center is there – scrambling to figure out what to do with existing scheduled programming.
- Harvests:
 - Old Shaker Farm Rd (past Marlborough Trailhead) finished up for the season. Will be back for one more harvest. Nice oaks- one of the highest value lots they have. Will be back in the spring, maybe make some road improvements for trailhead. Logging company put 9 loads of material into the road already, they were great to work with.
 - Monadnock is one of their largest reservations – 5 different management sections, each with its own plan. Looking to do more harvesting next year.
 - Looking to do Demonstration/Education harvest along a trail. Help people learn what goes on, and that harvests can be good for a forest. Trying to counter the growing disconnect between people and resources. Maybe along Marlborough, or Birchtoft/Hinkley/Harling trails. Scoping now.
 - Suggested better parking as well as outreach potential if we use Birchtoft rather than Marlborough.
- Monadnock Trails Week will be July 19-23
 - Will Jolly Rovers be present? Not sure, but will be invited.
 - Andy Crowley is the new Trails Coordinator in charge of the event.
- New Citizen Science project – Sugar Maple Regeneration study. Seedlings don't do well – documented decline in success. Looking to gather data.
 - 4 reservations to study, see if it's state-wide.
 - 12 plots off the Dublin Trail – 60-meter round plots, non-intrusive, tagged and marked off-trail. Working May-October for many years to come.

6. MERE update

- Summit Steward/Interpreter program will continue.
- Will forward analysis of effect of ice storm – fuel-load and fire-hazard – with recommendations for monitoring in the future, maybe to incorporate into management plan.

7. Division of Parks & Recreation update

- Thanks to Wendy and SPNH for their full engagement in finding and interviewing the new manager.
- New Public Information Officer, Brent Wucher.
- Largest Governor's Capitol budget appropriation to date, >\$6Million. Some projects need to go back to the legislature, but we're hopeful.
- Operations budget is what we asked for.
- Spent a lot of time on legislation lately (Testimony is on our website under "About us"):
 - A bill at Hampton to add \$0.25 to parking fees to give to town ambulance, etc. Opposed it - bad precedent to set – parks feel we need all of our funds, that we give back more than enough to the community with business that we draw in.
 - Dogs to run off-leash in parks where they're allowed. Opposed it. "Verbal control" never 100%.
- Business has been good:
 - Snowmobile Season is going strong – registrations hit \$40K
 - Cannon is doing great with cold weather and early snow, and school vacation still to come.
- Toilet building addition project is under way. Existing MTB will be connected by a changing station to a new, heated one. Doubling the 4 M's and 4 W's stalls to 8 of each, and adding new family rest room.
 - New building framed, water and electric line completed, trenched 6' under upper parking lot. Roofing starting next week.
 - This design can also be expanded at a later date to include the visitor center concept.
 - Cost at around \$900K is staggering, but that's how these things are.
 - Seppala bid very aggressively due to their connection to the mountain (Jeremy Seppala has hiked the mountain every weekend while construction has been underway) Construction is going very well, they've been great and we're getting extra value from them. Entrance being built with timbers milled from pines taken down from the building site (their idea).
 - Existing leach field will work. 3 existing septic tanks are generous – new adjustments to be made, but will work well.
 - Started late November, always tricky for digging be they were able to get the foundations in. Building in winter is going well.
 - Hope for a June completion.
 - We'll do some kind of gathering after completion to acknowledge the legislature, contractors, all the work that has gone into the project.
- From Forests and Lands: Timber Sale at Rhododendron next winter. North of Rhododendron Road, coming closest to Wildflower Trail. Commercial sale will be able to add in the access road and parking/picnic area. Pines there need attention. They'll be able to take the worst/hazard trees out. A post-hurricane management plan from 1952 called for thinning – none has been done, and it's badly needed now. We can encourage softwood/hardwood mix, age mix, encourage spruce. 17 Acres in Park Zone 53 acres total.
 - Coordinate with park for clean-up.
 - Use SCA interpreter before and after for public education.
 - Planning report is wrapping up. Will hold public walk, public notices going out soon. Will create interpretive signs about the project and tree-markings.
 - Park will handle hazard trees along the trail
 - Single-tree selection and small groups.
 - May be an opportunity to shift around and enhance picnic area.

8. Open Floor

- Where do the Parking lot/Tollbooth improvement plans stand? Still in the planning phase, not scheduled. Waiting in part for the new Manager to come on board to weigh in.
 - In contact with UNH for study on parking. Been sidetracked, but not lost...will do Carrying Capacity study.
- Where does the Management Plan stand? Again, waiting for new Manager to get up to speed and contribute.
 - Phil has been trying to get an RTP grant – stalled by gov't shut-down and other things
 - Skipped over Management Plan in prioritizing things we know would be foremost on the Plan – bathroom upgrade, etc.
- Last year Parks spent \$110k on tree removal state-wide.
- What are the markings about at Haven Forest on Thorndike Pond Rd? – may be re-painted boundary markings, but Inge will look into it
- Sterling – uneasy, feels like there's more they should be doing, or paying attention to – zoning for example.
 - The initiative of Jaffrey to change zoning around Mountain Zone. Used to be an agreement among all Mtn Towns what happened to that?
 - Cell towers – what does the law call for? Builders have to notify towns within a certain distance. The Windmill in Lempster turned out to be a big impact on the view from the mountain.
 - How to generate more revenue for MAC to help out (with the radio problem for example)?
 - Brainstorming – better parking for Pumpelli Tr. Knows it's a hard sell, but maybe someone might have an idea or a lead we don't know about.
 - MAC could help generate interest at local schools.

Are these ideas in MAC's prerogative? Can we meet an extra time to think about this?

(Phil): Look at the statute. With other commissions usually the Agenda is just drawn from statutory duties of the commission. Could go to the legislature if we want those duties to be different. Good questions that need review – we'll send out the RSA when we send out the minutes.

- Should we have a meeting to work on the Master Plan? – often that falls more on the Agency.
- Nothing says the MAC members can't get together in their own individual interests if something's not under MAC's purview. Could meet as a sub-committee to review the Master Plan.
- Where is the work MAC did on this 2 years ago? Johanna Lyons should have it.
 - Tara and Will to review first then send out to the group and we'll decide if a sub-committee is wanted.

9. Set date for next meeting

- Tentatively September 26th 2019, from 4pm to 6pm at the Jaffrey Civic Center. We may decide to move to the Mountain and/or combine it with the MTB completion ceremony.

10. Adjourn