

MAC Meeting Minutes

Date: December 17, 2020

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Remote via Microsoft Teams meeting

ATTENDEES	AGENDA
✓ Ann Royce (Town of Jaffrey)	1. Welcome & Introductions
✓ Will Kirkpatrick (Monadnock State Park)	2. Review of minutes from previous meeting
✓ Carrie Deegan (SPNHF)	3. MAC meeting location and members
✓ Dave Adams (Town of Troy)	4. MAC Financial Report
✓ Don Upton (Town of Troy)	5. Division of Parks & Recreation update
<input type="checkbox"/> Ed Germain (Town of Dublin)	6. Monadnock SP Manager's update
✓ Hiel Lundquist (Town of Fitzwilliam)	7. SPNHF update
✓ Dan Rogalski (Town of Marlborough)	8. Division of Forests and Lands update
✓ John Smith (Town of Jaffrey)	9. MERE update
✓ Peter Palmiotto (Antioch, MERE)	10. Open
✓ Phil Bryce (Parks & Recreation)	11. Set date for next meeting
<input type="checkbox"/> Polly Pattison (Town of Marlborough)	12. Adjourn
✓ Robin Blais (Chair, Town of Fitzwilliam)	
✓ Sterling Abram (Town of Dublin)	Guests:
✓ Tara Blaney (Parks & Recreation)	Brian Hotz (SPNHF)
✓ Wendy Weisiger (SPNHF)	Billy Kunelius – Forests and Lands
✓ Matt Scaccia (SPNHF)	Logan Thorner – Monadnock State Park
✓ Scott Rolfe (Forests and Lands)	Claire Joyce – Parks and Recreation

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Remote Meeting Disclosure Statement read.
- Roll call

2. Review of minutes from previous meeting

- Minutes re-sent for approval TBD.

3. MAC Meeting location and members

- Jaffrey Civic Center now had a charge for use, so we'll convene at the Jaffrey Town Offices whenever we're able to meet in person next. We need to book well in advance.

4. MAC Financial Report

- Balance \$2,770.38, no change for a couple years.

5. Division of Parks & Recreation update

- The COVID-19 Pandemic spanned most of the year. Staff have been extraordinary in responding.
- We're glad to have been able to be open at all – in March local communities were calling for us to close down parks, which were getting swamped with visitors. Phil, working on Governor's Task

Force to Re-open the Economy, with the help of Tara working on operating plans for the South Region parks, were able to come up with plans that provided some comfort to communities.

- Cannon lost \$2M or so, due to closing early in the spring, and no Tram operations during the summer. The Seacoast was closed in the spring and then operated at 50% parking capacity reducing revenue by \$800,000. It helped our financial condition overall that parks in the South Region were able to keep operating.
- Many agencies are getting reimbursed for COVID losses and expenses through the CARES act. Parks have not been able to so far – Phil is still pushing for that.
- [lost connection]
- We're set up to run parks next year, should be a smoother start-up now that we know what we need to do and have practiced plans in place.
- Working on a new fee package - most notably we're exploring charging out-of-state visitors more than NH residents. We still want to be sure Parks are affordable for all visitors.

6. Monadnock SP Manager's update

- Concern raised about overfull remote parking lots (Dublin, Marlborough, Pumpelly)
 - Yes, among our biggest unsolved problems – SPNHF is happy to discuss solutions.
 - Manager had technical difficulties, lost contact – but Managers Report was sent to all members.
Highlights not covered elsewhere in these minutes:
 - Visitation was extremely high and revenue remained strong
 - Rescues: 32 total. Fewer than last year, but more than the previous few years. But only 5 litter-carries – less than any of the previous 3 years.
 - Facility improvements, trail projects, volunteers and retail have largely been on hold, the last two only starting to ramp up toward the end of the season.
 - Rhododendron update – not staffed this season (typically we staff on weekends in July).
 - We send a lot of hikers there when we turned them away from Monadnock, but I don't think the park was heavily over-used.
 - We do have a volunteer doing regular work on the trails this season.
 - Was not a great bloom year.

7. SPNHF update

- Had to cancel Monadnock Trails Week. Looking forward to having that back once we're able.
- Gap Mtn timber harvest is ongoing. South trail closed all summer, will be all winter too. Loggers taking their time. Most people respectful of the closed signs.
- Gap North trail is open, but the parking is closed for the winter.
- Brian Hotz and Phil Bryce are reviewing DNCR's lease from SPNHF. Excited to continue the partnership, need to spruce up some language, but no major changes expected.
 - Need to explore what can be done with the remote trailheads.
 - (Phil and Brian) both seem to be thinking the same way, which is heartening.
 - Need to come up with some ideas to recognize the role of SPNHF at the Park. Some signage for kiosks was in progress before COVID (also to recognize volunteers), we need to re-awaken that effort.

8. Division of Forests and Lands update

- Planning is on-going for a timber harvest a couple years out - 2022. In the Sawyer and Wheeler lots, in the southwest corner of the state-owned land.
- Parker trail will be most impacted. Probably won't need to close it, just sign it well.

- Will do a Dec-March sale to interfere as little as possible with the hiking traffic.
- There are 175 acres total in the target area, but they won't cut nearly that much – expecting 50-75 acres actually cut.
- Planning small groups of 1-2 acres. Most of the understory is beech. Where some large oaks have fallen, it creates a hole where diverse species take advantage. We're looking to mimic that effect with the small group cutting and encourage diverse regrowth.
- We're working on a detailed planning report. This will then go through a rigorous review process.
- We have a deeded right-of-way from the Old Toll Road.
 - Question about impact on the OTR parking area: trucks will pass through but should be no impact.
 - Have the Hollisters have been contacted? Not yet, but they will be. Billy will set up a meeting.
 - Concern about trucks on the Old Toll Road: definitely something we'll sign well and plan for. We will post on Park website.

9. MERE update

- Meet the Mountain Day was pared down to Peter and 2 Stewards engaging with hikers on the mountain. Went well.
- The Summit Steward was active, and engaged hikers, delivering hiker safety, LNT and alpine ecology info.
- Re-sampled crevice communities. Adopt-A-Crevise Community program with HS students continues.
- Need to connect with Park Manager about almanac project. Hope to make hard copies available.

10. Open Floor

- Sterling has been doing the Annual Report to Towns – he will do so again (thank you!).

11. Set date for next meeting

- Thursday, April 8, 2021. At the Jaffrey Town Offices or via video conference, pending safety situation as the time nears.

12. Adjourn