

# Pisgah State Park Steering Committee

November 25, 2008

4:00 - 6:00 PM

Antioch University

Meeting Minutes

*Next Meeting - January 6, 2008*

*4:00 - 6:00 pm*

*Antioch University*

<b>Attendees</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Title/Affiliation</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Timothy Butterworth	State Representative	Chesterfield, Winchester and Hinsdale
Ken Desmarais	Administrator, Forest Management Bureau	Division of Forests and Lands
Bob Fee	New Hampshire Snowmobilers Association	Motorized Recreation
Chris Gamache	Bureau of Trails	Public Agency
Emily Hague	Stewardship Manager, Monadnock Conservancy	Monadnock Conservancy
Catherine Owen Koning	Faculty - Franklin Pierce University	Pisgah State Park Technical Team
Kathy Thatcher	President, Friends of Pisgah	Non-motorized Recreation
Ted Whippee	Town Selectman	Winchester
Don Kent	Natural Heritage Bureau	Guest

**Meeting Chair:** Bob Fee, Motorized Recreation Steering Committee Representative  
Minutes recorded by Cynthia Nichols - Pisgah State Park Technical Team Coordinator

## Next Meeting Date

### **Next Steering Committee Meeting**

Date: January 6th, 2008

Time: 4-6 pm

Location: Antioch University

## Agenda Items Proposed for January

### -Future Funding Streams for Pisgah State Park

It was proposed that the discussion following up on Ken Desmarais's presentation about current DRED funding and funding for Pisgah State Park be continued with a focus on potential future funding

### -Forest Guild Speaker

Emily Hague is in touch with a member of the Forest Guild who may be able to present at the next meeting.

-Winchester Property Adjacent to Pisgah State Park

The Steering Committee will discuss the potential for the Bureau of Trails to purchase a new property adjacent to the southwest corner of Pisgah State Park.

-Pisgah State Park Recreational User Public Forum and Survey Report

Joni Doherty from the New England Center for Civic Life will present a summary report.

**Notes of Interest:**

Good Forestry in the Granite State is currently being updated.

**Steering Committee Discussions**

**Winchester Property Adjacent to Pisgah State Park**

Chris Gamache advised the Steering Committee about a private property of 170 acres that the Bureau of Trails is considering. It is north of Rte. 119 and adjacent to the southwest corner of Pisgah State Park. The Bureau became aware of the property through the Monadnock Conservancy.

In response to questions and discussion with the Committee, Chris noted that

- Funding for the purchase and maintenance would come from recreation ATV user fees.
- The property is in a location that makes it good for connecting to trails that already exist in the Park
- The purchase within Bureau of Trails fits in with other maintenance objectives like boundary line management
- The expansion would allow accommodation to the southern riders and allows justification for enforcement
- If ATV use in the area is an impediment, purchasing the land would not likely be feasible for The Bureau of Trails

The landowner would like a response from Trails sooner rather than later.

The Steering Committee will review maps and discuss the project further at the next meeting.

**Pisgah State Park Recreational Forum and Survey Update**

Cynthia Nichols reported that Joni Doherty from the New England Center for Civic Life will present a report to the Committee in the first week of January 2009. The Recreational User survey given to participants at the Public Forums was also made available through e-mail to allow public input from people that couldn't attend the Forums. There have been approximately 37 responses to the survey since. Newspaper announcements were placed in early November.

The Steering Committee requested that the deadline for response be extended so that more Town administrators and Conservation Commissions could be contacted to invite more input from the towns adjacent to Pisgah State Park.

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Discussion

Bob Fee stated that he had some concern that soliciting responses from people who didn't participate in the Deliberative Dialogue process at the Forums could end up generating activist responses.

Bob also addressed his concerns that some of the Public Forum discussion could have been tainted by one of the participants passing around pictures showing trail maintenance work.

General Committee discussion noted that:

The Survey was circulated after the Forums because there was concern that many people couldn't attend because of the late notice or because of scheduling conflicts.

Because it's a Public Park, the thought was that the more public feedback the better.

As a solution, the Committee suggested that the Survey responses that come in from non-Forum participants could be analyzed separately.

Regarding the Trail Construction pictures:

It was noted that the pictures were shown at the end of the Public Forum, and there was no time to really discuss the project. What seemed to be concerning people was the width of the trails. Chris noted that the widening was being done to accommodate snow trail maintenance equipment.

Further discussion focused on the Trails Bureau trail maintenance process;

- Trail work plans are reviewed and chosen State-wide each spring
- The cost for the trail work on Davis and Hubbard hills was approximately \$2500
- The last project done in Pisgah that was similar was about 3 years ago

### **Vision Statement**

The Steering Committee carefully reviewed and edited a draft of the Vision Statement. The final version of the wording was voted on and accepted. The final version will be circulated to Committee members for final review and then will be available to the Pisgah State Park Technical Team.

## **Organizational Structure of Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED)**

Ken Desmarais presented an overview of the DRED management structure and funding. A summary of the information will be included in the Management Plan and the power point presentation is available.



**Figure 1: Department of Resources and Economic Development Organizational Chart showing the four Divisions, the departments associated with each Division, and the Region and District jurisdictions for Pisgah State Park.**

Departmental Focus within the Division of Forest and Lands

Forest and Lands:	Management of the natural resources
Forest Protection:	Forest Health – Monitoring and control of forest insects and diseases
Land Management:	Boundaries and easements
Natural Heritage:	Natural Community Inventory

## General Finance Information

The State makes payments-in-lieu-of-taxes to the Towns of Winchester, Hinsdale and Chesterfield of approximately 1.50/acre if funds are available.

### **Funding Stream**

Division of Parks and Recreation

Trails Bureau - receives snowmobile and ATV permit funds

Park Operations - self funded

### **The Forest Management and Protection Fund**

Receives funds from State timber harvests

- \$150,000 is sent directly to the State first and remaining funds go to Forest and Lands

- Pays part of the Division of Forest and Lands salaries and benefits, boundary line maintenance, wildlife habitat improvement, Natural Heritage inventories, forest inventory, mapping and management planning.

### **Pisgah Specific Funding Information**

Natural Heritage Bureau Inventory:

Approximately \$105,000 was spent on the Pisgah State Park Natural Communities Inventory that was recently completed

Park Manager Funding:

The position is supported by the Bureau of Park Operations. Division of Forest and Lands also provides items like the office personal computer, cell phone and land line.

Bureau of Trails:

Approximate Annual Costs: \$110,000

Flood Repair costs: approximately \$52,000 and \$17,000 after the 2005 and 2007 floods respectively; included in that are State Grant and Aid monies

Future Work in Pisgah will include:

- Invasive species removal
- Road maintenance for entry and exit for timber harvest
- Inventory of forestry compartments
- Wildlife habitat improvement activities
- Boundary line maintenance

## **Discussion: Future Funding Potential**

Suggestions:

Iron Rangers - Chris Gamache noted that the Statewide Trail Advisory Committee is discussing ideas about trail passes and other types of user fees

Wheeled vehicle Fee - the ATV's are already paying for use of the trails through permits

Primitive Camping

Chris Gamache noted that the State Park Advisory Committee is currently working on their Strategic Plan  
- The Committee will pursue information about the Plan - contact: Johanna Lyons

## **Public Comment**

Dan Carr -

Regarding the property in the Southwest Corner of the Park -

He noted that the property surfaced originally in the Winchester Conservation Commission.

Dan's noticed that because of human use in the park - the wildlife patterns that he's seen tend to move to the edges - for example - around Tufts pond - where the proposed property is located -  
He would like to see the ATV use and the wildlife richness at the area balanced