

Pisgah State Park Steering Committee
 January 6, 2009
 4:00 - 6:00 PM
 New Hampshire Fish and Game Office
 15 Ash Brook Court, Keene, NH
 Meeting Minutes

*Next Meeting - February 3, 2009
 4:00 - 6:00 pm
 Antioch University
 40 Avon Street, Keene, NH*

Attendees		
Name	Title/Affiliation	Representing
Timothy Butterworth	State Representative	Chesterfield, Winchester and Hinsdale
Rick Carrier	Hinsdale Board of Selectmen	Town of 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
Tim Hill	Forester - Cheshire County	Forestry/Timber Harvesting
Don Kent	Natural Heritage Bureau	State Agency
Catherine Owen Koning	Faculty - Franklin Pierce University	Pisgah State Park Technical Team
Tim Murphy	Southwest Regional Planning Commission	Regional Planning
Robert Smith	Friends of Pisgah	Friends of Pisgah
Kathy Thatcher	President, Friends of Pisgah	Non-motorized Recreation
Mark Zankel	Deputy Director, The Nature Conservancy New Hampshire	The Nature Conservancy

Meeting Chair: Mark Zankel, State Deputy Director, The Nature Conservancy

Guest Speaker

Bob Perschel

Minutes recorded by Cynthia Nichols - Pisgah State Park Technical Team Coordinator

Orders of Business

Next Steering Committee Meeting Date

Date: February 3, 2009
Time: 4-6 pm
Location: Antioch University
Chair - To Be Determined

February 3, 2009 Draft Agenda

- Final Vote on Vision Statement
- Current Costs for Pisgah State Park Management
- Future Funding Streams for Pisgah State Park
- 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.
- Technical Team Presentation

Past Meeting Minutes

The October 7th and November 25th meeting minutes were approved with minor modification. They will be posted to the DFL Website

Discussions

- 1-Pisgah State Park Vision Statement
- 2-Recreational Forum Public Survey Report
- 3 - Steering Committee and Technical Team Collaboration and the Management Plan production process

Presentation:

Robert Perschel
Forest Management and Sequestering Carbon
In the interest of timely production of the meeting minutes, Robert Perschel's presentation will be attached at a later date.

1 - Pisgah State Park Vision Statement

The Steering Committee discussed additions to the Vision Statement for wildlife habitat and scientific research.
The additions will be sent to the Steering Committee prior to the Feb. 3rd meeting for review.
The final vote on the Vision Statement will be held on Feb. 3rd.

Discussion:

Jim Oehler proposed that:

Sustainable forestry and wildlife habitat management operations should be added, in particular to Part II – Bullet 4.

Ted Walski from the public emphasized that that deer yard habitat should be considered

Tim Butterworth

Noted that Pisgah has been used as a research laboratory by several institutions over many years that it should be noted and future research should be supported. It could be incorporated into both sections of the Vision Statement.

Bob Fee – voiced his concern that Pisgah is a public park, and that the public should not be excluded from areas for private institutions to do research.

Don Kent –

Supported Tim Butterworth's recommendations – and noted that research opportunities can be realized without impacting the public use of the park.

With further discussion it was noted that:

- The management plan objective is to look at the best uses for the various parts of the park.
- Research fits in with the State public park objectives.
- One of the advantages with Pisgah is that since there are going to be natural areas and managed areas it will be a great opportunity to compare the two types of areas.
- Research proposals would be directed to the best areas.

2 - Recreational Forum Public Survey Report

Cynthia Nichols stated that the survey information is still in the process of being analyzed by both she and Joni Doherty from the New England Center for Civic Life.

Ted Walski and Bob Fee noted that they didn't feel that sportsmen had enough opportunity to contribute to the survey. It was decided that the survey will be put into the January edition of the sportsman circular the "Hawkeye" for more survey input opportunities.

That will extend the time before a final report can be given - Cynthia will update the Steering Committee at the next meeting. A final report will be given at the March meeting.

3 - Steering Committee and Technical Team Collaboration and the Management Plan production process

Catherine Owen Koning asked how the Steering Committee would like to receive information that the Technical Team has been gathering.

This opened questions and discussion about:

- how to increase communication between the Technical Team and the Steering Committee.
- how much detailed information does the Steering Committee want from the Technical Team
- Should the Technical Team give presentations about the detailed information they are gathering

It was suggested that these questions be approached within the guidelines that the Steering Committee could provide guidance – and consider the Technical Team's recommendations for the management plan. The process was set up so that the Technical Team could do most of the detailed work, and the Steering Committee could review it.

There was concern that the Technical Team needs feedback from the Steering Committee as they put together the information rather than at the end of the process so that they can receive feedback and guidance from the Steering Committee.

It was noted that it's important for Steering Committee members to have a chance to review all of the information; but that we also want to organize the process so that there's a division of labor. The detailed work that the Technical Team is doing doesn't need to be done twice.

Ken Desmarais and Chris Gamache noted that some chapters will probably need more detailed and earlier review by the Steering Committee than others. For example, Ken noted that there is a great deal of work that goes into determining the forest management areas, and it would be unproductive to repeat that if they are going to be changed dramatically. It will be important to get early guidance from the Steering Committee on these types of recommendations.

It was proposed that the Technical Team could organize the detailed information they are gathering into summary presentations with documents to support for presentation at the Steering Committee meetings. Supporting documents could be made available to the Steering Committee before the presentation meetings so that they can come prepared for discussion.

Production Schedule:

Within this discussion it was suggested that we put together a timeline both to allow for discussion of the various parts of the Technical Team work and to pick up the pace on the production of the final Management Plan.

August 2009 was floated as a tentative date for final production.
The date and timeline will be discussed with Commissioner Bald.