

Pisgah State Park Steering Committee

April 14, 2009

Antioch University

40 Avon Street, Keene, NH

Meeting Minutes

Next Meeting:

May 11, 2009

4:00 - 6:00 pm

Antioch University

40 Avon Street, Keene, NH

| Attendees | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Name | Title/Affiliation | Representing |
| George Bald | Commissioner, Department of Resources and Economic Development | Department of Resources and Economic Development |
| Timothy Butterworth | State Representative | Chesterfield, Winchester and Hinsdale |
| Meade Cadot | Senior Naturalist/Director of Land Programs Harris Center for Environmental Conservation | Wildlife Management |
| 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 |
| Brad Simpkins | Interim Director, Division of Forests and Lands | Division of Forest and Lands |
| Robert Smith | Friends of Pisgah | Friends of Pisgah |
| Kathy Thatcher | President, Friends of Pisgah | Non-motorized Recreation |
| Ted Whippie | Town of Winchester | Town of Winchester |
| Mark Zankel | Deputy Director, The Nature Conservancy New Hampshire | The Nature Conservancy |

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

MEETING SUMMARY

Ken Desmarais brought the meeting to order.

The minutes from the February 3, 2009 meeting were reviewed by Steering Committee members prior to the meeting. The minutes were accepted as is.

Presentation: Pisgah State Park Recreational Forum Report - Joni Doherty - New England Center for Civic Life, Franklin Pierce University.

A Balancing Act: A Report on the Public Sessions on Recreational Use in Pisgah State Park –

In presenting the report, Joni described the Forum Deliberative Dialogue process, information collection, and results.

Summary of Relationships

- 1 - The majority of people go to the park for recreational activities (as compared to just being with nature), but the common ground among them was love of nature and preserving the park
- 2 - Most participants use the park for more than one reason
Example - hikers who also snowshoe and dirt bikers who also hike.
- 3 - All of the participants state that the natural beauty of the park was an important part of their recreational experience.
- 4 - For most snowmobilers and dirt-bike enthusiasts, social interactions are an important part of the overall experience. Hikers, in comparison, enjoyed solitude, serenity and silence.
- 5 - The development and/or maintenance of trails that met the particular needs of their sport were of concern for dirt bikers, mushers and equestrians.

Most folks were interested in maintaining trails and that some folks were interested in extending trails.

6. Very few individuals go to the park for a nature-centered experience like research or volunteering to eliminate invasive species

Joni pointed out that the willingness of citizens to participate and work together on the park is a powerful resource that could be tapped.

Presentation: New Hampshire State Park Planning and Development - Johanna Lyons, State Park Planning and Development Specialist

Johanna reviewed the Parks and Recreation Planning Efforts and also introduced a State Park program called the Great Park Pursuit. She also reviewed the Planning Strategy that has been on-going within the Division of Parks and Recreation since about 2005.

The Division of Parks and Recreation (Parks) focuses on the areas that are zoned as developed recreation, for example, parking lots, facilities etc. Within Pisgah, there are no areas zoned for developed recreation.

Often within one State Park, there is often a small amount managed by Parks while the rest is managed by Forests and Lands and other agencies focused on resources.

Implementation - Which included a Development Plan

- Objectives and Scope of Work
 - Mission Statement
 - Vision Statement
 - Analysis of recreational opportunities provided by the Division
 - Goals to meet the Mission & Vision
 - Capital Improvement Plan FY 2012 -2021
 - Objectives & Strategies
- Public Involvement is VERY important!

Within the Development Plan there are guidelines, a-1, that describe what will be included in the Strategic Plan

Presentation: Forest Cover in Pisgah State Park - Inge Seaboyer, Division of Forests and Lands

Forest Cover types are put into Size Class Categories based on the average diameter of the tree at breast height, or DBH. Based on the 1981 - 1985 data, most of the park, approximately 11,000 acres, falls into size class 4 - Small Sawtimber or 10- 14.9 inches DBH.

Inge noted that the mid 80's inventory data makes sense, because much of Pisgah was effected by the 1938 hurricane and the size classes would be appropriate for about 50 years of recovery, especially in the northern end of the park. It's likely that there will be larger sections of un-even aged trees in the center region where there was less history of logging and there were areas protected from the hurricane.

Based on the Soil types, the Forest Climax Trends lean toward primarily Hemlock/Black Birch throughout the park with some Northern Hardwood and pure Hemlock areas

Presentation: Ecological Communities and Systems in Pisgah State Park - Jeffrey Littleton, Moosewood Ecological LLC.

Defining Natural or Ecological Communities are ecological units that repeat themselves over the landscape -

There are three pieces that are used to describe them:

- 1 - Plant Species assemblage
- 2 - Structure - what is the form of the forest - shrubland, marshes
- 3 - Natural Processes - Soil types/water regimes/natural disturbance regimes

Classification system used here is the Natural Heritage Bureau Classification System.

Pisgah State Park Community Systems and Natural Communities

Overview:

3 Natural Community Systems

Hemlock/Hardwood/Pine Forest - majority of the community systems
majority of acreage in Pisgah

Lowland Spruce Fir Forest - small areas many adjacent to ponds and lakes and wetland approximately 85 acres

Emergent Marsh Shrub Swamp

There are 2 Exemplary Community Systems

Within the 3 Natural Community Systems there are:

24 Natural Communities

9 upland - open or forested areas

15 wetland

There are 3 known rare plants and 2 locally significant communities

Presentation: Historic Cultural Sites - Sarah Bockus - Antioch University

Sarah developed a map that shows currently known sites to identify clusters of habitation with and added extensible boundaries that can expand and contract based on what is learned.

Known Sites:

1. Old Chesterfield Farm Community
 2. Hardscrabble/Nash City
 3. Horseshoe Road Cluster
 4. Hubbard Hill Settlement
 5. Broad Brook Mill and Farm Community
- Round Pond/Pisgah Reservoir Mills and Camps

Public Comment

Beth Piffard

Trail Rider - has ridden and hiked many areas in the park, would like to see an area that has an equine loop without motorized vehicles. All the surrounding states have parks with equines and areas for camping

DRAFT