

Pisgah State Park Steering Committee
 December 17, 2009, 4:30 - 6:30 pm
 Meeting Minutes
 Location: Antioch University

Attendees		
Name	Affiliation	Representing
Rep. Tim Butterworth	New Hampshire State Representative	Chesterfield, Winchester and Hinsdale
Meade Cadot	Harris Center for Conservation Education	Wildlife Habitat
Ken Desmarais	Forest Management Bureau	Division of Forests and Lands
Chris Gamache	New Hampshire Bureau of Trails	
Emily Hague	Monadnock Conservancy	Monadnock Conservancy
Tim Murphy	Southwest Regional Planning Commission	Regional Planning
Robert Smith	Friends of Pisgah	Friends of Pisgah
Kathy Thatcher	Friends of Pisgah	Non-motorized Recreation
Ted Whippie	Town of Winchester	Town of Winchester

Meeting Chair:

- Ken Desmarais - Administrator, Forest Management Bureau, Division of Forest and Lands
- Minutes recorded by Cynthia Nichols - Pisgah State Park Technical Team Coordinator
- Guests - Johanna Lyons, State Park Planning and Development Specialist, Division of Parks and Recreation

Orders of Business

Next Steering Committee Meeting Dates

To Be Determined - Approximately late January to mid February:
 In order to have time to review information from the Technical Team, the Committee will meet two weeks after the last chapter is submitted.

November 19th 2009 Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from November 19, 2009 were reviewed by the Steering Committee. A motion made at the November meeting was not adequately reported in the draft minutes. The minutes were amended to better report the motion as it was originally made and voted on. The motion was as follows:

Given the importance of recreation in Pisgah State Park, the Steering Committee recommends that Ken Desmarais contact the NH Division of Parks and Recreation and ask if the Division will commit to being fully engaged in the planning process over the course of the next year, working closely with the Steering Committee to develop the Parks and Recreation Management sections of the Pisgah State Park Management Plan.

A vote was taken and the edited motion was accepted by the Steering Committee. The November 19th 2009 minutes were accepted with this amendment.

Discussion: November 19th Motion Update:

An in-house meeting was held at DRED to consider the Steering Committee's proposal to write the management plan in two sections and the motion put forward at the Nov. 19th meeting. The consensus was to consider the proposals for a while more. The Division of Parks and Recreation would like to consider their resource availability because they are also in the middle of a strategic plan and short of staff.

The Bureau of Trails will commit to developing an access plan for park users. Most of it would be done in house over the next year, and then come to the public with that plan for public review and comment.

Chris noted that the Division of Parks and Recreation doesn't have answers for a lot of the questions out there right now. They are in the process of analyzing the needs and strategy for all the State Parks.

After some discussion, the following motion was put forward by Emily Hague:

Motion:

The Steering Committee will complete the Natural and Cultural Resources portion of the management plan called Part I. They will then go to recess. The Steering Committee and the Technical Committee will reconvene to review the recreational information from the Parks Division to complete Part II and integrate it into the final management plan.

The motion was seconded and accepted with no opposition.

Monitoring Trail Condition and Activity Prior to the Access Plan

Rep. Tim Butterworth and Kathy Thatcher both noted that it's important to consider trail activity and condition currently and while the Parks planning is in process.

The Steering Committee asked that the Technical Team work to develop recommendations for general recreational monitoring and maintenance and a reporting mechanism.

Information can also be collected in the next year and included with the information presented to the Commissioner.

Public Comment

The Floor was opened to Public Comment; this furthered a great deal of the Steering Committee discussion that lead to the Motion put forward by Emily Hague and accepted by Committee vote.

Draft Minutes