

Pisgah State Park Steering Committee
March 25, 2008 3:30 - 6:30
Meeting Minutes
Please Note - Next Meeting - May 20, 3:30 - 6:30 pm
Location TBA

Meeting Chair: Ken Desmarais, Administrator, Forest Management Bureau

Attendees		
Name	Title/Affiliation	Representing
Phil Bryce	Director, Division of Forests and Lands	Division of Forest and Lands
Timothy Butterworth	State Representative	Chesterfield, Winchester and Hinsdale
Meade Cadot	Harris Center and Antioch University	Wildlife Management
Ken Desmarais	Administrator, Forest Management Bureau	Division of Forests and Lands
Chris Gamache	Bureau of Trails	Public Agency
Tim Hill	Forester - Cheshire County	Forestry/Timber Harvesting
Molly Kelley	State Senator	State Senate
Catherine Owen Koning	Faculty - Franklin Pierce University	Pisgah State Park Technical Team
Tim Murphy	Southwest Regional Planning Commission	Regional Planning
Bob Fee	New Hampshire Snowmobilers Association	Motorized Recreation
Bob Smith	Friends of Pisgah	Friends of Pisgah
John Stetser	Friends of Pisgah	Town of Winchester
Rick Carrier	Hinsdale Board of Selectmen and Chesterfield Town Administrator	Town of Hinsdale
Kathy Thatcher	President, Friends of Pisgah	Non-motorized Recreation
Tom Wessels	Faculty - Antioch University	General Public

Minutes recorded by Cynthia Nichols, Pisgah Technical Team Coordinator

Information Requested:

DRED's Land Use Zoning information -

Definitions

Activities that can occur in the various zones

Overheads of important discussion documents for public observers

Items that will be available on the Division of Forest and Lands (DFL) website

www.nhdfl.org:

Meeting Minutes

Pisgah State Park Technical Team PowerPoint presentation

Meeting Summary

Ken Desmarais brought meeting to order

Meeting minutes from the February 19, 2008 meeting were discussed and accepted with one amendment. Meeting minutes will be posted on the Division of Forest and Lands website at www.nhdfl.org

Pisgah Technical Team (PTT) Presentation

Catherine Owen Koning gave a PowerPoint presentation about the history and activities of the PTT.

Catherine asked the Steering Committee to consider these questions:

Types of information that should be collected and sources for it

Examples of good management plans

Priorities for Information gathering

The best ways to gather Public Input

The PTT had been planning on conducting a park-wide natural forest communities inventory to gather detailed ecological information to use in formulating their recommendations. Funding hasn't been secured, and a recent application for funding was not accepted. The Inventory is currently being shelved and efforts are underway to gather as much information as possible from existing data.

Public Forums

It was agreed that public input is important to this process. The PTT will therefore continue to conduct the Forums. Efforts will be made to increase public notification about the Forums.

The PTT has held two forums so far; on November 13th, 2007 and March 13, 2008.

DFL sponsored a Timber Walk on Feb. 16, 2008

-DFL now has a DVD available that shows this winter's Timber Harvest

The PTT is also putting together a Public Opinions Survey that will be administered at Pisgah State Park (PSP) trailheads and public forums.

It was suggested that public forum topics could be garnered by looking at PTT's list of Management Plan topics. A forum on the Recreational Uses was suggested.

Ken Desmarais showed a DVD about this winter's Timber Harvest

Members noted that:

- this looked like a carefully planned and executed harvest
- not all harvests are this carefully done, and it's important to make sure that any future harvests be done in a similarly careful manner

Discussion: Developing a Pisgah State Park Management Plan Vision Statement

Land-Use Zoning was reviewed:

(Tab 2 in the notebook)

"To maximize public use and benefit, each parcel of forestland is zoned according to its highest or best uses."

- It was pointed out that Zoning is an important tool for management; and a way to determine what uses will be considered in the Park.
- Once a section has a zoning designation, the zoning goals are the overarching guide to any activities in the area
- Information on activities allowed in each zone\ will be distributed.

The Technical Team is considering Zoning recommendations as part of their work.

The Declaration of Purpose for State Reservations was reviewed.

Discussion specific to Crafting a Vision Statement:

- It might be good to use the 1987 vision statement as a guide (Tab4 in the Notebook)
- It's important to make a concise and short statement that's unique to Pisgah State Park.
- Think about the features that are unique to Pisgah State Park

Tom Wessels noted three key features unique to Pisgah:

- 1 - Size
- 2 - On the western side there are many acres that were never open to agricultural activity
- 3 - It's a very undeveloped park

Tom said that he would like to see these attributes maintained and further noted that the core area with old growth forest is worth protection. Also, while not necessarily precluding logging, it's important to maintain the real wilderness feel of the park.

The group identified more key items (in no particular order) such as:

- Allowing multiple uses while maintaining the Park integrity
- Maintain Wilderness
- Size
- Old Growth Forest
- Undeveloped
- Harvard Forest Plot
(Museum of 1938 Hurricane)
- Temporal value of Research
- Geographical Location
- Education

Including the Park Development Process
Connectivity for
Wildlife Populations
Recreation
Watersheds
Climate Mitigation
Geology
Recreation
Historical/Cultural elements

Surrounding Lands

When considering management/zoning areas, it will be important to think about abutting properties and uses so that they fit together well
For example, it would be good to find out more about the:
-Monadnock Conservancy's California Brook project.
- The East West Greenway from Chesterfield to Wantastiquet that started about 1989

Harvard Forest

Historical studies by Harvard Forest in the Harvard Forest tract within PSP laid some of the foundation for current forest ecology principles. The Harvard Forest tract is a section of old growth forest that was studied both before and after the 1938 hurricane. Fallen trees were left without any salvage to study natural disturbance recovery.

It was suggested that interpretive signing in place at some of the old growth locations would be interesting for public education.
The Committee approved inviting David Foster to present. David is the Director at the Harvard Forest Long Term Ecological Research Site.

**The Committee will continue this discussion by e-mail and draft a Vision Statement for consideration at the next meeting. **

Public Comments -

Laurel Powell -

Feels that we have a moral obligation to preserve and expose the logging and farming Communities that were there - it's important that we do this because when the State acquired the land - these folks lost their histories.

Phil Bryce noted that specific details and information about this would be appreciated.

It was requested that announcements be placed in
The Brattleboro Reformer and the Greenfield Recorder