

Mount Agamenticus Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

Day: Wednesday, February 09, 2022

Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Time: 9:30am – 11:00am

Members Present:

Conservation Coordinator, *Robin Kerr*
Great Works Regional Land Trust, *Jill Crosbie*
Maine Dept. Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, *Josh Matijas*
Town of South Berwick, *John Branagan*
Town of York, *Robin Cogger*
York Land Trust, *Doreen MacGillis*
York Water District, *Gary Stevens*

Public/others present: *Ben Jankowski*, Mt. A Trails, Grounds & Facilities Supervisor; *David Tibbetts*, Mt. A Crew Member

Chair: *Doreen MacGillis*

Minutes: taken by *Jill Crosbie* and transcribed by *Robin Kerr*

Correspondence/ presentations/ requests:

Doreen announced that she is stepping down this summer as Director of York Land Trust after 23 years. She is going to be working with Jerry Bly at Creative Conservation. YLT will be forming a search committee to fill the vacancy. This Committee will need a new Chair and YLT will send a new representative. Committee members expressed their congratulations and how much Doreen has played an integral role on this Committee and in land conservation efforts in York and the Mount A region. She will be missed.

Approve minutes from previous meeting: Minutes from 11/10/2021 meeting reviewed and approved as presented.

Public forum: n/a

Discussion items:

- *Parking/Restroom Project Update;* Presented a preliminary proposal to York Planning Board on Jan. 27, they had some questions about waivers, but received preliminary approval. One question was about a traffic study as the current assessment may be outdated. But as traffic patterns are not expected to change they granted a conditional waiver. Wright-Pierce submitted an application to DEP and final application to Planning Board on Feb. 7 and hope to be on the Feb. 24 agenda for final approval. Parking scheme designed shared; not much has changed. Composting toilet building design draft shared. It will be the same for the summit and base.
- *Guideline for Drone Use;* Parks and Rec Board reviewed proposal for drone guidance. Looked into Federal Aviation Laws, very thorough. Separate drone policy may not be needed, just need to highlight existing laws and educate drone users at the summit. Robin shared proposed language to add to existing guidelines for use. Town does not allow commercial use on any Town parks. Guidelines already note how to apply for special use permit; just need to add to website. Is registering same as special use? No- for recreational purposes, if over .55lbs drone operators must register with FAA and mark drone. If a drone operator is looking to operate for commercial purposes or looking for any other exceptions, they would fill out our special use permit application for review.
- *MOU draft;* the last MOU was updated and signed over 10 years ago. Robin updated names, and added the line about Committee agrees to send a Committee Rep to attend a Select Board meeting

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annually or as needed. As a reminder this Committee is non-regulatory meaning the Committee doesn't make policies or regulations for the region. Each entity does not give up rights to land and each remain with the ultimate decision. Each representative will have the document signed and send back to Robin.

- *Public Access and Trail Plan edits*; List of major trail projects were presented: Fisher trail reroute, update to signs to avoid people getting lost, continue fill project on Norman Mill trail and others, replace culvert on Cedar trail (beaver dam will require permitting), eliminate a stream crossing on Wheel trail (culvert or other), accessible trail improvement from Cedar to Beaver interpretive display. Discussed Cedar trailhead access to ski base for atvs and emergency access; consider two lanes and wide enough for trucks/emergency vehicles. Robin will send draft of edited plan for review; trying to get maps updated as well- Paul with YLT is helping out.

Reports

Coordinator's report:

- Robin presented to the South Berwick Town Council on Feb. 8th. JB was there for support as a committee member.
- Ben presented annual report with highlights: atv emergency access completed on Ring trail, invasive plant survey and control, replacement of boardwalks, GIS inventory of unmarked trails, new plantings, volunteer workdays (less corporate but more individuals).
- Naomi's annual outreach highlights included: 42 registered groups with 1,400 people, 25 schools and camps, 400 students to lodge (all down due to Covid), 18 public programs (some new and new partners), visitor use survey report draft shows 728 surveys with 2000 visitors, online surveys as well, already scheduling groups for 2022, still seeing a Covid influence as large groups are down and smaller groups up.
- How parking will influence use and comments on parking fee; article in Seacoast Media; how this effects Cedar trail, Water District gates, and other access locations

Gary/Watershed

15 acre parcel from York between Middle Pond and Chases Pond; has trail and some wet sections.

Doreen/Land Conservation

York Select Board considering donating more land to YLT near MacIntire. Closing on parcel near Great Marsh.

Meeting Adjournment

Next meeting date/time: Wednesday, April 13th, 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m

Location: TBD- possibly zoom