

Mt A Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2023

Location: York Land Trust, 1 Long Neck Marsh Road, York, ME

Time: 12:30 PM

Members Present:

Great Works Regional Land Trust, Jill Crosbie

Kittery Water District, Bob Gray

Maine Dept. Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Josh Matijas

Town of South Berwick, -----

Town of York, Pete Murray

York Land Trust, Amelia Nadilo

York Water District, Zach Mein

Other Attendees:

Mt. A Natural Resource Manager, Robin Kerr

Mt. A Stewardship and Conservation Coordinator, Ben Jankowski

Mt. A Outreach & Education Coordinator, Naomi Densmore

YLT Stewardship Director, Liz Walworth

YWD/YPD Resource Officer, Gary Stevens

Chair: Jill Crosbie

Minutes: taken by Amelia Nadilo, transcribed by Robin Kerr

Review and Approve Minutes- Previous meeting: 11/15/23

- Approved and accepted

Public forum: (10 min max per speaker)

- N/A

Correspondence/ presentations/ requests:

- N/A

Discussion items: (up to 45 min)

- Rules & Regulations; uniformity across partner lands:
 - Trying to marry Parks Ordinance (regulations for summit portion) with Guidelines for Use. As Parks Ordinance got revised, good timing to look at our group's Guidelines for Use. Robin reviewed after November meeting and essentially added a note in the beginning stating that landowners have authority on property and if something isn't addressed or if you have a question, to seek out the landowner.
 - Added Mission Statement, Purpose and Intent, Management Boundaries, Authority and Administration Framework sections.
 - These guidelines could be on the website and people can be told to refer to the website for further information

- Last meeting: lots of contradictions (staying on trail, hunting, dogs, etc.). These guidelines are for the general public and general land uses. Addresses the discrepancies by encouraging people to refer to MDIFW regulations and Special Use section.
- Language changes:
 - prohibited vs. not allowed
 - unless authorized by landowner or their designee
- Committee reviewed guidelines section by section
 - Discussion about dogs being on leash and dog waste
 - Discussion on hunting and target practice
 - Discussion on the access road
- Next conversation: Naming Mt A Steering Committee members as landowners. Everyone generally likes the introductory page. Next meeting to finalize review for this section.
- Education Enhancement Project; interpretive panel review
 - Used to have old bulletin boards at base and summit. Re-doing them so they are 3 panels at base and 6 panels at summit with information as the intro to Mt A. Re-focuses the theme of Mt A as a conservation area.
 - Panel 1: Protect and Preserve
 - Panel 2: Wildlife & Habitats
 - Panel 3: Water Quality & Map
 - Summit Backside:
 - Shrubland
 - Raptor Migrations
 - Big A Universal Access Trail and Map
 - Stewardship Efforts; Erosion
 - Volunteers
 - Ways to Support
 - Looking for suggestions on how to pare things down so it is less text heavy

Reports: (15 min max per speaker)

- Annual Reports:
 - Shared reports to Board and received good feedback. They are on the website as part of a blog post and Robin is turning them into PowerPoints for Board presentations. Will be presenting at a future YLT meeting
 - Invasives Report was different this year because of parking lot, fill, etc.
 - Invasives inventory was done by all staff and David Tibbetts.
- Conservation Program Stewardship Update
 - Working on a broader project for land owner records on trails. Taking all info, right of ways, and put it onto one database.
- York/Kittery Water District reports
 - YWD: Search & Rescue Map: working on the second update for that. Got files from GWRLT, YLT, and Mt A.
 - KWD: organizational changes, Mike Rogers retiring 2/29. Carl Palm is the replacement as superintendent. Technical services role retired, looking to fill two roles. 12/20 Board

President resigned and Bob is now president of the Board. Sent out first scholarship check that was funded by their timber harvest. Scholarship is for someone taking courses related to water/life sciences. Bringing annual contribution vote to the Board.

- MDIFW report
 - Parking lot off Bennet Lot road didn't happen. Contractor lined up disappeared and no longer responded. Need to find a new contractor, small job – need 3 bids to make it a legitimate quote. Still trying to secure
 - Inholding off Pave Street, MIF&W holds that easement. Did a monitoring there and noticed hemlock, beetle, to assess damage. Salvage cut for hemlock and maybe pine.
 - Need to be careful to not broadcast rare plant and animal communities. Ex. illegal pet trade – it is on the rise and growing in New England. The panels list plants and animals. Beginning with Habitat map has GIS points, but that isn't public. IF&W and TNC had a publication that showed the cedar swamp.
- Town of York: Pete met with Mike Morrison who volunteered to do a tick education in-person workshop and see if other partners were interested.
- Land conservation efforts
 - GWRLT: Salmon Falls River tidal waters project south of Vaughn Woods – one of land owners will be donating parcel outright now. Puts curveball because had matching funds.
 - YLT: Finished timber harvest on McIntire Highlands property on Tuesday. We won't be reopening the preserve until summer as we repair trails and forecasting wet summer. Meeting with Linehan to resolve father's encroachments but expressed interest in conveying. Leon Moulton passed but we haven't reached out to heirs yet.

New Business/Future Meeting: March 13th at 9:30am at YLT