

Mt. Agamenticus Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2024

Location: Mount Agamenticus Lodge, York, ME

Time: 11:30 AM

Members Present:

Great Works Regional Land Trust, Jill Crosbie

Kittery Water District, Bob Gray

ME Dept. of Inland Fish & Wildlife, Josh Matijas

Town of South Berwick, John Branagan

Town of York, Pete Murray

York Land Trust, Liz Walworth and Evelyn

York Water District, Don Neumann

York Water District, Zach Mein

Other Attendees:

Natural Resource Manager, Robin Kerr

Stewardship and Conservation Coordinator, Ben Jankowski

YWD/YPD Resource Officer, Gary Stevens

Chair: Jill Crosbie

Minutes: taken by Peter Murray, transcribed by Peter Murray/Robin Kerr

Correspondence/ presentations/ requests:

- Robin discussed the Mt. A interpretive panels.

Review and Approve Minutes- Previous meeting:

- Motion to accept the minutes KWD moved and JB second it passed

Public forum: (10 min max per speaker)

- N/A

Discussion items: (up to 45 min)

- Steering Committee Function Review- Is it a "Steering Committee"? Yes, landowners help support joint work in Mt. A area, understanding own goals and coming together for larger objectives. In 2014 Meeting notes, positions identified, operated as an advisory board, operates based on consensus, hosts a public forum. The question was asked if we should add or change language on the steering committee MOU and it will be reviewed at the next meeting. JB suggested we host a stakeholder meeting for all town board representatives. The goal for that meeting is currently to be discussed.
 - Steering Committee will review existing MOU at next/future meeting
 - add mission/who Steering Committee partners are
 - note how we relate to Towns and vice versa

- add bulleted notes on history
 - would like all to have better understanding and renewed commitment
- Eastern Trail Review- Would like to better understand what impacts might be; how to partner with landowners? Robin will invite ETA to present/share ideas in a little more detail with Committee (in person or online or via informational packet).
- The Mount Agamenticus Management Area Guidelines for Use; more discussion on language in Section 2: Purpose and Intent and Section 3: Management Boundaries; reviewed options for clarification. Discussed target practice and drone usage. Updated guidelines will be circulated and voted on by email.
 - The Great Marsh Trail is currently gated at the Beal Property to control ATV use on their property. This impacts access for efficient trail maintenance and may impact search and rescue efforts. State may have conservation easement; will look into it. YLT reached out to Beals and they will call to discuss.

Reports: (15 min max per speaker)

Conservation Program – Robin gave an update on the Mount A RTP grant application. The quote for repairing the Big A Trail came back at \$150,000 and York does not currently have a match for the grant and is postponing application until the next round of grants are available in June. Website discussion tabled.

Mount A Staff discussed various programmatic and stewardship efforts. It was decided that the Trail Access Signs would be voted on by email. The group from Central Michigan volunteers were discussed, schedule shared and committee members agreed to follow up on coordination of this group. Ben and crew/volunteers finished building the largest board walk. Learning Lodge is open for season.

Town of York – Park Mobile will be going live; end of FY funding.

Mount A Region Patrols Update; Gary Stevens – Helping with SAR map; address access; PD put on an ATV Training program – 20 people attended including folks from the Police, Fire and YWD; Law enforcement grant was discussed. Mount A region has been very quiet.

YWD Update – Trail Update – Maintenance is close to finished for the season. They have been working on new Search and Rescue maps with a digital version and it is going live soon. They will also be meeting with York PD. The online map will be interactive and defines what is ATV, Bike, and foot accessible. Preparing for a timber harvest using Forester, Brian Reader and they are in the draft phase of a research management plan.

KWD – Planning a timber harvest

Josh/MDIFW – Doing a wildlife waterfowl survey, peregrine falcon work, bat surveys, training for banding geese, plover's on beaches, deer fawn season. They will be doing invasive phragmites treatment work in the cedar swamp in late August and early September.

JB/South Berwick – Gave a town meeting update and discussed parking and fees. Emphasizing “admission” vs. “parking”, but difficult with “park” mobile.

Jill/Great Works Regional Land Trust – Tidal Water Project at Samon Falls River will be wrapping up soon which will add 40 acres. Bauneg Beg Mt. – Both peaks are now conserved. They are renovating the north trail. They will be hosting a Garden Party on July 26th from 4pm – 8pm at Beach Plum Farm.

York Land Trust – Salvage harvest at McIntyre Highlands is wrapping up; ATV volunteers will be contacted to work on Great Marsh Trail around 3rd Hill/culverts mid-July- Sept; project approved and now have permit. Acquiring abutting parcel near MacIntire Highland Preserve with the Town offering to turn over stewardship; They welcomed new Stewardship Coordinator, Evelyn Brown.

New Business/Future Meeting:

Realign meeting schedule; Next meeting will be August 13, 2024 @ 9:00 am and will be scheduled on the 2nd Tuesday of the month moving forward.

1:42 PM – Meeting Adjourned.