

# **Mt. Agamenticus Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

**August 13, 2024**

**Location: Mount Agamenticus Lodge, York, ME**

**Time: 09:00 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, -----**

**Town of York, -----**

**York Land Trust, Liz Walworth**

**York Water District, Don Neumann**

**York Water District, Zach Mein**

## **Other Attendees:**

**Natural Resource Manager, Robin Kerr**

**YWD/YPD Resource Officer, Gary Stevens**

**Chair:** Jill Crosbie

**Minutes:** taken by Zach Mein, transcribed by Robin Kerr

---

**Review and Approve Minutes-** Previous meeting 6/18/24; table approval & make corrections:

- In future, minutes should have who is doing what
- Add that Robin is following up with Eastern Trail
- Add Steering Committee to review existing MOU next, note how we relate to Towns & vice versa,
- Add bullets on history of Mt A steering committee (ask Gary to recap or refer to his email)
- Pete brought up how to organize so committee has teeth or a better mutual understanding and renewed commitment

**Public forum:** (10 min max per speaker)

- N/A

**Correspondence/ presentations/ requests:**

- N/A

**Discussion items:** (up to 45 min)

Steering committee functions and steps for future vision/mission

Review current MOU, wait for JB and Pete to discuss, send any comments/notes

Guidelines for Use & Signs- need to revisit hunting/drones; Robin will work with State & YWD to finalize

Deadline Dec 2024 for Guidelines of use + access signs

Change meeting timeline – move up partner updates before discussion item

Mt A strategic plan goal complete by 2025 -> what is the cost and can partners contribute

Money going towards lodge this fiscal year -> strategic plan + what is the future

**Reports:** (15 min max per speaker)

Mt A/ Robin's Update:

Grants- Davis Conservation Fund partial funding awarded for uniform signs – not able to complete everything -> money put towards design work on kiosk -> \$11k quote for high end sign fabrication, working on getting other quotes for cheaper options - Jill suggests cheaper sign due to change out/update costs

Submitted request to Recreation Trails Program grant- Need to realign Big A trail with new parking \$150k cost – proposing \$120k through our RTP grant but need to find 20% match – possibly next summer is estimated time frame – Don asked if Wheeler trust can be used for some of these projects – also if public works has any ability for sign working or trail work as they have the equipment to do it

Working with coast guard auxiliary to renew lease

Marions Brook – select board approval + fourteen letters of support

Boundary survey – where work can be done depends on who's land the trails cross on and what agreements are. Working on Land Abutter agreement with Mark Young. Josh noted that the State is working on a Statewide Survey initiative in the next 3-5 years; we should list priority survey areas. Robin will contact Ron Nowell for MacDonald property

Looking at new gator for trail work, will bid with confirmed ARPA funds

Dealing with invasive (buckthorn) on cedar – Josh will look into treating the phrag and enlist the help from David Tibbetts/coordinate down the road

Lodge renovation—going through the capital budget process, getting an updated estimate on assessment to determine what can/needs to be done for it to function efficiently and be brought up to date with building codes

How to access great marsh trail for possible S&R

Ben's Stewardship Update:

Workday with Wright Pierce- 9 tons of stonedust added to Big A trail and heavy fluffing and drainage work around third hill trails

Buckthorn topping and pull in red maple swamp- roughly 1 acre

Crew made 9 new signs for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> hill areas – routered, sanded, painted

Installing auto locks on bathrooms; deadbolts in stalls to lock during day, summit not staying latched

### Naomi's Outreach Update:

Trail challenge September 21<sup>st</sup> 8:30/9-11am; volunteers needed

Visitor use survey, annual; midway thru

Wild wonders program; running new program M-Th 8:30-11am for ages 5-6 and 7-8

Trail mix mingle, Saturday Aug 31 9-11:30am, \$10, for National Trail Mix Day, will have games, leave no trace demonstrations, 1<sup>st</sup> hill hike

Two open houses for educators, free, Sept. 12 and 26, 3-6pm

Other happenings at Mount A include starting budget season for FY26, interviewing for new crew as some current crew members are wrapping up, talks with Ogunquit Garden Club, and working with volunteer with American Chestnut Foundation to plant saplings, protect, water and pollinate adult chestnuts.

### Gary's Regional Report:

LE ATV grants, recipient since 2005, spring round finished in July, starting new round this fall

Full time officers at YPD became ATV certified

\$190k given to YPD from IF+W through grants since beginning; planning to replace ATV with 2025 grant and trade-in.

ATV use on trails have been quiet; Issues and ATV use have declined since beginning of program

Found 8 campers on YWD during patrol; they found area on Alltrails or other app

Familiarization tour with both fire departments

### Zach/YWD Update:

Finish trail maintenance for the year; completed work on Blue trail; leftover \$ used to work on Red crossover ahead of reroute set up for next year.

Summer worker repainted gates, ground proofed gps points, checked trail markers, pulled invasive bittersweet and phragmites (mowing making a difference in areas)

Brian Reader, forester, checked markings, look good for timber harvest, Steve Pelletier (3<sup>rd</sup> party state certified) waiting, backlogs causing delays.

### Bob/Kittery Water District Update:

Considering timber harvest options by east side of Belle Marsh; regardless, working on road

Knotweeds spotted; attended invasive presentation, will reach out to DPW

Worked with PD and received note of apology and check from people responsible for vandalism last year

### Josh/MDIFW Update:

Down a biologist, hiring underway; busy and constantly pulled for different issues public is having

Treat phrag and will look at buckthorn near cedar swamp end of month

Knocking down knotweed today near parking lot on Bennett Lot Road and will come back to treat with exfoliant

Follow up with bennet lot parking – on list

Seasonal mowing/brush hog in Brownfield and Scarborough

Orphaned fawns (about 8-12 this season) to be released

Managing Bear baits (not in Mt A)

Prep for deer and moose season; expanded archery starts soon; organizing fall deer hunt on islands

Pheasant release scheduled

Acoustic bat surveys; 8 species surveying with bat detector

Outreach at Camp Northwoods

Jill/GWRLT:

no update today

Liz/York Land Trust Update:

Salvage harvest complete; replanting and benefiting from natural regeneration

McIntire Highlands Preserve closed until Oct. while working on trail repairs due to winter storm, working on better wayfinding and making trails more accessible

Grant from wild and scenic for land acquisitions

Work on third hill trails- No response from ATV volunteers, will retry plus Mount A crew can assist, Liz will coordinate

In discussion with landowner about encroachment and acquisition in vicinity

### **New Business/Future Meeting:**

Read through MOU and strategic plan for next meeting

Develop timeline for strategic plan and funding at next meeting

Conflict with Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>; shoot for October 22<sup>nd</sup> 9am next meeting- Robin will reach out and confirm with all

11:06 AM – Meeting Adjourned.