

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

**October 30, 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, -----**

**Town of South Berwick, -----**

**Town of York, Pete Murray**

**York Land Trust, Ameila Nadilo (virtual)**

**York Land Trust, Liz Walworth (virtual)**

**York Water District, Don Neumann**

**York Water District, Zach Mein**

## **Other Attendees:**

**Natural Resource Manager, Robin Kerr**

**Stewardship and Conservation Coordinator, Ben Jankowski**

**Outreach and Education Coordinator, Naomi Densmore**

**York Police Department Resource Officer, -----**

**Chair:** Jill Crosbie

**Minutes:** taken by Ben Jankowski, transcribed by Robin Kerr

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**Review and Approve Minutes-** Previous meeting minutes from 6/18/24 (revised) motion to approve by Pete, second by Bob and minutes from 08/13/24 motion to approve by Bob, second by Pete. Both passed unanimously.

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

- N/A

**Correspondence/ presentations/ requests:**

- N/A

**Reports:** (5 min max per speaker)

Mt A Conservation Program:

Robin- Interpretive panels underway with McGarvie Signs. Working on the 9 kiosk panels for now with the funding available. Hope to have that completed by the end of next week. YWD & Parks offered to help with installation and ledge. Pete has a contact for composite signposts. RTP update and waiting for finding at federal level and seeking \$30K match. We did get confirmation that this project ranked well. Marion's Brook naming proposal application submitted. USGS will look at Indigenous and County stakeholders. Drone ordinance wording may conflict with regulated FAA airspace, will work to revise and incorporate "launch/land" language. Expected delivery of the Gator is 12/4. Lodge renovation

capital request submitted to Town Manager. Budget review and invoices to be sent. Some partners may be submitting higher contributions, Robin to follow up.

Ben/Stewardship- hoping to talk with Josh/State about possible grave site; need carbon dating. Unsanctioned trail building around Darter and Third Hill area. Third Hill Cycles movement, seeing shirts and stickers. Shrubland cutting done, need to finish up with chipping/chipper repair. Restroom/Admission Fee season wraps up Nov. 15. Rangers wrap up around the same time.

Naomi/Outreach- Last school group scheduled Nov 14. From Aug-Nov had 30 registered groups. 16 of those were schools and camps including Wild Wonders, a new program adapted through YPRD. 10 of those had lodge use/programs. Lodge is now closed for the season on weekends, tracked approximately 4,200 visitors on those weekends with 415 tracked over a 4hr period on a holiday weekend in Oct. Had great volunteers to assist in Lodge. Upcoming: Three Hill Hike on Nov. 3, Late Night with CAL on Nov. 7, Summit to Highland Farm Hike with YLT and YWD on Nov. 17, and Sunrise Solstice Walk on Dec. 21. Also scheduled some holiday Gift Shop Pop-ups, working on Visitor Use Survey write up, and planning for spring.

#### Regional LE Report:

Gary was not able to attend to give a patrol update. Don took the opportunity to explain that KWD and YWD had agreed to fund \$40k to support the patrol program for 2 years (Calendar years 24 & 25). YWD is working with York PD to figure out the actual cost of patrolling, maintenance, and repairs for continuation of the patrolling program for the conservation region. The water utilities are advocating for a Conservation Officer that would need buy-in from all partners (land trusts, water districts, towns). This collaboration would help the position gain support. He mentioned that maybe our group could consider preparing a presentation for the Budget Committee and/or Selectboard. He felt strongly that we should have an opportunity to do that. There has been discussion about potentially having a full-time Conservation Officer tied to Harbormaster. YWD and KWD will budget up to \$5k each in 2025 toward new patrol ATV providing a potential Law Enforcement Grant and the TOY would fund the rest. It appears YPR has interest for a position for the beaches and the Utilities support a position for the conservation region. Pete will follow up with the Town Manager to see if there is support for this position and see if it's a possibility for this year.

#### York Water District:

Zach- Timber harvest finished. Open canopy to encourage growth of pines on approximately 70-80 acres. Last cut here was about 25 years ago. Budget planning for next year for bridge and trail maintenance.

#### Town of York:

Pete- Thanks to YWD for seasonal water extension for the Nubble. They were able to stay open later as a result. Thanks to YLT for kayak trip partnerships thru York Wild and Scenic. They have been a success.

#### Kittery Water District:

Bob- No harvest this year due to poor economics. Working with Brian Reader to become a certified tree farm.

ME Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife: n/a

Town of South Berwick: n/a

Great Works Regional Land Trust:

Jill- Title work complete for 50 acres Salmon Falls acquisition. A new parcel (approx. 40 acres) added to Bauneg Beg area.

York Land Trust:

Zetterberg and abutter letters sent out and boulders will be installed soon (more below in discussion). McIntire Highlands has reopened except for the Tall Tree trail. Map files with draft map will be available next week. No response or communication with landowner regarding encroachments and acquisition. Culvert or bridge replacements around Third Hill planned for next year.

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

Great Marsh trail access and unauthorized activity- Zetterberg private inholding attempted to develop, lost in Superior Court case, no right of way or prescriptive rights. Found evidence of trail widening, filling, cutting, and closing established reroutes. Town, State and Land Trusts made aware. Current plan is to boulder on YLT property and submit police report. Can partners split the cost of contractor to boulder? Robin will reach out to Josh/State to see if there are any funds for access improvements for this project.

Steering Committee Function- History/Functionality. See email notes from Gary and YWD History and Timeline. Conversations about renewed commitments with partners. Refresh MOU to reflect that Committee members report to their Boards/Management and look at Don's edits. Bob noted that the ME Water Utilities Association encouraged Districts to engage with State Reps to show them what they are doing. Suggested Steering Committee could do the same. Discussion tabled (need more partners present to continue effort).

Strategic Plan Update- Discussion tabled (need longer meeting of partner boards/reps for strategic plan). Seek input from YLT as they recently completed a plan. It took about 8 months; the cost with facilitator was approx. \$6K. Robin will follow up with Amelia about costs, timeline and possible sources of funding. Partners to read and review 2015-2018 plan for next meeting. 2025 timeline- goal to set timeline by quarter to get Strategic Plan updated. Robin will create a timeline draft for the next meeting.

**New Business/Future Meeting:**

Robin to email the Committee w/Guidelines for Use and Access signs to be finalized at the Dec. meeting.

Committee to read through MOU and strategic plan for next meeting for final discussion on MOU and Mission/Function

Develop timeline for strategic plan and funding at next meeting

Next meeting scheduled for Dec 10, 9am. Robin will check the availability of Grant House

10:35 AM – Meeting Adjourned.