

Mt. Agamenticus Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

February 11, 2025

Location: Grant House, York, ME

Time: 09:30 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, -----

Town of York, Pete Murray

York Land Trust, Liz Walworth

York Water District, Noah Emery

York Water District, Zach Mein

Other Attendees:

Natural Resource Manager, Robin Kerr

Stewardship and Conservation Coordinator, Ben Jankowski

York Water District Intern, Josh Pawlencio

Chair: Jill Crosbie

Minutes: taken by Ben Jankowski, transcribed by Robin Kerr

Review and Approve Minutes- Previous meeting minutes from 12/10/24 motion to approve by Bob, second by Zach. Motion passed unanimously.

Public forum: (10 min max per speaker)

- York Water District and York Sewer District shared Intern, Josh, introduced. He is a YHS senior and will be interning until May.

Correspondence/ presentations/ requests:

- Robin sent a response letter to Eastern Trail presenters. Pete suggests sending a copy to the TOY Planning Director, Dylan Smith.

Reports: (5 min max per speaker)

Mt A Conservation Program:

Robin- The RTP award is now official; need to fundraise for the 20% match. FOMA fundraising thru "Give Butter" and Fields Pond application.

Ben- New gator, need to enlarge boardwalks to a 66" width; monitoring Zetterberg property, no changes; Kristen Nowell property has new unsanctioned trail, working with MDIFW to monitor easement.

Annual waitlist for Winter Solstice Walk, end of year reports, visitor use survey report and spring planning.

Regional LE Report:

Gary hasn't patrolled since December (medical leave); annual report shows Mt A has most regional activity. Long term trends show decline since Covid peak. Zach tracking patrol using "Survey 123" for one year now; tweaking program to track long term trends and streaming reports for user friendliness; will share.

Kittery Water District:

Bob- No timber harvest for 2024.

York Water District:

Zach- Tweaking paperwork and Office, now in his second year in job. Water levels back up; before snow quiet season.

ME Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife: Not much to report at Mount A. Avian influenza on rise; esp with geese, report of dead geese 3 or more. Golden eagle project, effort to ban, transmitters to follow and track. NE cottontail survey in Scarborough. Waterfowl nest box replacements. John Vale (sp?) new regional biologist, counterpart to Josh, has burning experience and will assist w/Kennebunk Plains, now fully staffed.

Town of South Berwick:

JB not in attendance, but Ben and Robin will present report to Town Council on the 25th.

Town of York:

Pete- Lodge renovation, requested funding for design not brought forward, looking at FY27; want to keep character, but improve accessibility.

Great Works Regional Land Trust:

Jill- Zetterbergs discussing a sale. There is discrepancy on acreage, made offer based on tax map. Pete will ask York Code about the potential of any fines issued to Zetterbergs being transferred with the property. Will still need boundary line agreement with MDIFW eventually.

York Land Trust:

Liz- McIntire Highlands blazing repairs and cleaning up timber harvest area; ski club looking for a site with more overstory for groomed snowpack. Starting an application to NPS for an accessible trail project planning support, replacing old trail at Highland Farms. RTP may be shifting to municipal funding exclusively, Maine Trails Bond may be for non-profits moving forward.

Discussion items: (up to 45 min)

Committee Function- Jill- History, goals at time of inception? mission separate from vision (2015 Strategic Plan)

Pete- MOU: partners "can" discuss issues together, but they don't have to or it's not the expectation.

Jill- When and how often do we advocate for issues together? E.g. Conservation Officer position. Need to collectively be more conscious of when we are speaking on behalf of the Steering Committee.

Pete- Add a line to MOU about communicating if something comes up that impacts greater conservation region and how to convey group decisions or not.

Liz- Suggest creating a Charter or Bylaws to define Committee roles. Will provide YLT Stewardship Committee Charter example.

Committee consensus to research Charter/Bylaws.

Zach- When to update MOU- frequency?

Next steps: Bylaws/Charter draft, Robin will bring for next meeting to discuss.

Strategic Plan- Jill- Is a Facilitator needed?

Liz- Hillary Robbins hired to facilitate YLT's strategic plan; 30 hours of work for \$6K fee.

Jill- Decide on Facilitator and timeline at next meeting. Robin will share Amelia's consultant research and cost options. Will need to look at funding options too.

Bob- Potential facilitation project for UNH students for \$500, will send information.

New Business/Future Meeting:

Next meeting:

- Officers: Vice Chair and Secretary
- Charter/Bylaws
- Facilitator
- Conservation Officer – can partners contribute? Pete- doesn't think Town of York will advocate for full-time position in near future. Budget/funding tight in Town.

Josh- will be doing extensive boundary work per USFWS mandate. Send Josh any known issues. MDIFW hiring part-time monitoring staff.

11:17 AM – Meeting Adjourned.