

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

**May 5, 2025**

**Location: Grant House, York, ME**

**Time: 01:00 PM**

### **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, Amelia Nadilo**

**York Land Trust, Liz Walworth**

**York Water District, Zach Mein**

### **Other Attendees:**

**York Police Department Resource Officer, Gary Stevens**

**Natural Resource Manager, Robin Kerr**

**Stewardship and Conservation Coordinator, Ben Jankowski**

**Outreach Coordinator, Naomi Densmore**

**Chair: Jill Crosbie**

**Minutes: taken by Amelia Nadilo, transcribed by Robin Kerr**

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### **Discussion:**

- Meeting date/time: Assessing the group to determine if we should keep regular bi-monthly meeting for second Tuesday of alternating months at 9:30am. (Next meeting is 6/10/25).
- Note keeper: Liz will research AI options for note-taking. Jill offered to be secretary if someone takes Chair position and reviewed depth and scope of role and duties. Zach offered to take notes in the next meeting (June) but may have to leave early for Manager meeting and someone may need to finish meetings.
- Vice Chair: Pete Murray offered serving as the vice-chair. Vice-chair would fill in when chair isn't able
- Chair: Jill continues

**February Minutes:** Liz: motion to accept minutes; Zach seconded – all in favor and no one opposed.

### **Correspondence:**

- Someone inquired with Robin about more mountain biking trails on the Mountain and that they may want to come before the Steering Committee to learn more about us and make the case for more trails. Robin will find out more about the inquiry and will circle back.

## Reports:

- Conservation Program
  - Robin's update: Big A 50K was last weekend: 121 registered attendees and 97 starters. Good test for the parking project and it was well managed. Good event and had some inclement weather. Fabulous Find has chosen Friend's of Mt A for Month of May. Asking partners to share the newsletter. Friends is raising funds for the match to the RTP grant. Maine Trails Program being run similar to the Recreational Trails Program. They have 7.5 million to disperse this year – applications are open and deadline is 9/26/25. Doug Beck is doing a promo tour around the state to share info. He will be at the mountain on 5/22 and Steering Committee is encouraged to register and attend. Mt A has an open RTP grant right now and will likely submit for MTP.
  - Stewardship update: restrooms open for the season, skeleton crew right now and will be ramping up staff (6 lined up total) by early June. Have an intern who wants to become a park ranger and will work with them on a trail assessment. Earth Day workday with 13 volunteers of planting bareroot plants at the base parking and trash clean up. June 7<sup>th</sup> is national trails day and doing a boardwalk on cedar trail that day. Working with YLT on trail restoration on Great Marsh. Had some washouts from all the rain recently too.
  - Outreach/Education update: Officially in school field trip season – have 2-3 schools groups each week until mid-June. Lodge opens MDW. Have a new volunteer docent – 3 total now. Collaborations with Water District: Imagine a Day without Water on Thursday, CRES.
- Regional Patrol Report
  - Gary: no patrol report – missed 3 months this winter and returned to work in April. Police Department had him at 10 hours a week. Only a handful of patrols and hasn't visited land trust land yet.
- Partner Updates
  - York Water District: Coordinating sapling planting from last year's timber harvest – elementary school kids will come out to help. Ordered the 2025 scholarship, planning day without water, busy with project prep season
  - Kittery Water District: Talking to contractor about doing road work for us for road improvements
  - MDIFW: Moving forward with Bennet Lot road parking area. Josh reached out to Bob Libby for a quote. Acquisition: nothing close – working toward a 650-acre parcel in Alfred. Doing peregrine falcon, acoustic bat, and woodcock surveys. Boundary work underway. John Vale biologist did a conservation easement monitoring.
  - York/South Berwick: Did program with York County Beekeepers this past weekend and were a great group to work with.
  - GWRLT: Have a signed purchase and sales agreement and tentative closing day of May 16<sup>th</sup>. Went back and forth on P&S for a while. During all of this, peter chatted with Harry at code and Jill followed up on the Notice of Violation that was placed on the land regarding the tree cutting on the resource protection area. Harry said the fine stays with

the Zetterberg's, but violation could carry over to new land over. But if we were willing to plant trees, wouldn't need to follow up with fine. GWRLT went back to Zetterberg' to update their due diligence, and Zetterberg's said the NOV was bogus (Zetterberg's hired an arborist to assess). Harry said he would take it to the select board to enact fine, which was up to \$14,000. GWRLT was going to keep trying, did due diligence walk on the land, and Zetterberg's said yes and each part will do title search. GWRLT gave Harry update about signed P&S and Harry let them know that they rescinded the NOV. Harry likely took it to the lawyers before the Select Board and said that they determined there wasn't enough evidence. This is the second time this has happened with Town of York. May be good to ask Harry how to address an issue like this in the future and determine what evidence is missing? Pete will chat with him after the 16<sup>th</sup> to learn more. Funds coming from MtA2C. Then after closing, would like to take cabin down and then put boulders back in place. GWRLT and YLT hired a lawyer to prepare an injunction and that is on hold. Other projects taking place in Bennett Road and Cox Pond that could be funded by LMF.

- YLT: Putting up roadside signs, hoping to put a parking lot in at McIntire highlands for 3 cars this year or next year. Doing trail work on Tall Tree Trail and plantings.

#### **Discussion Items:**

- Central Michigan University Volunteers coming next week and a few groups are sharing them for projects.
- Steering Committee Charter: Reviewing documents sent. Charters vs. By-Laws vs. MOU. By-laws are not applicable to our setup. Charter could be for committee and MOU would be the partners signing on to the charter. Liz shared YLT's stewardship committee's charter. This is a great starting place for us to review. Goal for next meeting is to review draft for charter, and then draft an MOU similar to the one we have that we can approve – send feedback via email. Want to make sure we have matching language to our guidelines. Need a vision statement – for the region? Steering committee? Management area? Robin would love input from everyone, especially vision statement, missing committee partner terms, quorum vs. consensus, purposes and objectives, evaluation and improvement, and language on steering committee presentations to select boards.
- Strategic Plan Update: Amelia shared research on facilitators. Question is if one is needed or wanted, and if so how to pay for it. Having something written gives validity and can help funders. Last SP was from 20015-2018 and question is how in depth and what to cover. Amelia shared that this committee focuses on land management and town relations and asked if we need a SP to navigate that. SP is meant to coexist with conservation plans. Need to assess progress on SP, and some objectives may just be continued. Amelia advised that if it something that is created and filed away and not tracked closely, may not be worth the time and resources. A lot of what is currently on the plan is about the town and summit versus the general partners. Have all committee members review and provide feedback. Need to assess the duplicity with the trail plan too. Peter suggests doing charter first.

**Action items:**

- Promote Fabulous Find month of May for Friends of Mt A.
- Review Charter and send Robin feedback and suggestions via email
- Review Strategic Plan and come with thoughts/impressions at the next meeting

**Future meetings:**

- Conservation Officer: Table to June or August and so it lines up with budget approval. PD position was taken out at a prior meeting because it wasn't presented well/advocated for. Steering Committee and Police Department need to advocate to the Town Manager. Need to find a time to meet with him before August. Gary will meet with Don, and Lieutenant Piskopanis, etc. to review reports and patrol summaries, finalize position and report back for June 10 meeting. Peter Murray will then facilitate meeting with the Town Manager, Peter Joseph and others before Aug. Need to determine what the position would look like from the PD, and then who would fund it. Lacking clarity about the PD funding and unfilled positions, and why this didn't qualify for a position. Need to show that it is a reallocation, not additional funding.
- MDIF&W: Has a new game warden named Tom (from Tennessee). New to Maine and new to the job.

**Next meeting:**

- 9:30am Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at Mt. A