

Mt. Agamenticus Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2025

Location: Grant House, York, ME

Time: 09:30 AM – 11:20 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, Liz Walworth

York Water District, Don Neumann and Noah Emery

Other Attendees:

York Police Department Resource Officer, Gary Stevens

Natural Resource Manager, Robin Kerr

Stewardship and Conservation Coordinator, Ben Jankowski

Chair: Jill Crosbie

Minutes: taken by Ben Jankowski, transcribed by Robin Kerr

Review and Approve Minutes- Previous meeting 5/5/25 approved as is.

Public forum:

- N/A

Correspondence/ presentations/ requests:

- N/A

Reports:

- Conservation Program
 - Naomi has 5 camps scheduled for July, working with school groups and end of year field trips/programs, Lodge now open for summer season.
 - Friends Auction- first ever; collecting items, trails signs; fundraising for RTP match for Big A trail restoration project.
 - Fabulous Find proceeds amounted to \$10k for match as well.
 - Robin gave an RTP update- 4 contractors attended site walk, proposals due in 2 weeks, planning for July bid award. Project must be completed by end of June 2026.
 - Parking fee update- law change to allow “parking fee” to go to Mt. A, Selectboard will have ordinance update at their next meeting, could mean a possible rate increase, Pete is going to advocate against increase.

- GWRLT
 - Jill- land trust is going to apply to the Maine Trails Program for an access project on their Old Boston property.
- YLT
 - Liz- land trust is going to MTP for an access project on Highland Farms property.
- YPD
 - July will be the 20th year that Gary has applied for the Maine ATV Municipal grant. Applied for \$5k to go toward new ATV and trade in the 2015 Honda ATV. YPD, KWD and YWD all chipped in.
 - A mom and son were lost on Norman Mill trail past Parent Camp. Dispatch pinged phone and talked them out and Gary picked up at Cedar trail. The mom found all the white-blazing confusing.
 - Gary and PD found a couple with drug paraphernalia at the base parking lot, had extensive record, but no arrest.
 - Gary stopped a man who appeared to be attempting to walk into YWD for fishing.
 - Few ATV contacts this season, Fish & Game members are coming out.
- YWD
 - Planned trail maintenance 50% complete (washouts)
 - Red cross over trail re-route planned
 - District boat will be in Welches Pond; trapped 3 beavers
 - CRES planted 500 white pine trees
 - 3rd party review for upcoming timber harvest
- KWD
 - No timber harvest this year; won't conduct until prices come back up unless need to do sanitary cut on hemlocks
 - Continue road improvements
 - Paperwork being completed by Brian Reader to become registered tree farm
 - 2026 treatment plan with PNSY to bring more water to the Navy yard; will impact KWD plant/to process 1M more gallons; will need congressional review for \$75M improvement
- GWRLT
 - Closed on Zetterberg property; will work with YLT and MDIFW on boundary line agreements; cabin cleanup needed
 - CMP cut tree that was down on powerlines at preserve in North Berwick
 - Homeless camp in Berwick
- YLT
 - MacIntire Highlands- volunteers to repair Tall Tree; two workdays this week for trail, signs, and tree planting

Discussion:

- Liz- "Rev"-AI notetaker; potential transcription service, try for next meeting? YLT will test (\$10/mo)

- Draft Charter and MOU: Jill- multiple documents mention Steering Committee, is there a consistent mission statement? Guidelines for Use, Trail Plan, Strategic Plan all mention purpose and mission with slightly different wording. Use Strategic Plan mission as official mission? Bob- start with consistent mission. Robin- basic template for charter needs tweaking. Jill- Adopt or Revise Strategic Plan mission statement? Bob- Committee doesn't do work, they advise the people doing that. Jill- follow YLT charter template- Purpose, Mission, Facilitate and a Jill- combine purpose and management area. Jill- Does charter need a Vision? Vision for management area vs. committee? Bob- vision is what we're looking to achieve in the future. Liz- offering to draft simple vision examples. Jill & Bob- vision, mission, values. Mission- how to make vision happen. Robin- work with Liz to draft mission and vision options. Objectives- Jill- add "advocate" mission and support. Liz- "advocate for important and resource needs to meet the vision". Bob- "advocate for the allocation of resources needed to meet the vision". Management Area- Pete- why is Kenyon Hill exclude? Noah- Just keep Kenyon Hill out of Charter. Jill- duplicate management area definition from trail plan. Keep language consistent throughout various documents. Chair- Jill, Vice Chair- Pete, Note taker- Zach. Liz- what does "committee reports to partner agencies" mean? Robin- from MOU- Steering Committee partner representative, will report back to their organization to keep them updated and likewise will report back to the Committee any information that needs to be conveyed.
- Conservation Officer: Gary- one more PD hire in the works. This person will be a part-time conservation officer. They will have one year PD training, then one year of Conservation Officer training with Gary. Existing open position to be re-classified. Pete will follow up and Department Head meeting. Don- continue to advocate for position as a Committee publicly. Jill- invite PD to next meeting. Don- It would be helpful to know any funding needs. 20th anniversary of grant. Good time to highlight the importance and the success of the program.

Action items:

- YLT review REV AI notetaker
- Robin, Jill and Liz will take feedback on Charter and work on new draft
- Pete will follow up in Dept Head meeting; Committee to invite Piskopanis to next meeting
- Committee members review Strategic Plan and come with thoughts/impressions at the next meeting (funding a planning facilitator or consultant, venue, timeline)

Future meetings:

- Review Strategic Plan, Facilitation, Costs

Next meeting:

- 9:30am Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at Mt. A