

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

**December 10, 2024**

**Location: Grant House, 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, John Branagan**

**Town of York, Pete Murray**

**York Land Trust, -----**

**York Land Trust, Liz Walworth**

**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 (virtual)**

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

**Town of York, Planning Director, Dylan Smith**

**Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission, Transportation Division Director, Dean Williams**

**VHB, Director of Transportation, Tony Grande**

**VHB, Senior Active Transportation Planner, Phil Goff**

**Cushman Transportation Consulting, Transportation Planner, Educator & Consultant, Sarah Cushman**

**Chair: Jill Crosbie**

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

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## **Correspondence/ presentations/ requests:**

- Eastern Trail Alliance presentation of Feasibility Study with SMDPC and VHB.
  - Study involving communities of North Berwick, South Berwick, Berwick, York
  - 6 meetings for local feedback; 2 public meetings
  - Existing trail mostly on road in York County
  - Focus on “Berwicks to the Border”
  - Study area mainly follows old rail corridor
  - York is “Study Area 3” on map and ETA website
  - Evaluation criteria to score alternative routes
  - Connect Study Area 1 to Study Area 3
    - Options: 10’ wide path within powerline corridor or shoulder widening

Q/A/ET Discussion

- Pete- question about concept that goes around Mount A into Ogunquit (follow powerline corridor)? Answer- Too many wetland crossings, added distance, interest in connecting to Mount A, issues with access and easements from utility companies.
- Timeline? 3+ years for design and feedback
- Funding for “Area 1” design likely available soon
- Area 3 study currently -more meetings to come. In process of report- likely to be completed by March/April
- Identified initially in Statewide Rail Trail Plan- MTA2C initiative to Short Sands
- Partially on road route with enhanced, wider shoulders, connecting to off road
- Ideal goal is 10-12’ wide trail, accommodate bicycles and pedestrians
- Off road options are more successful for attracting use
- Added major crossing areas with lights for on road in dangerous spots
- ET is not groomed/plowed- natural winter use
- Discussion about danger of Mountain Road in winter, ET committee open to other options
- Jill- what about Belle Marsh Road? JB- concern about biking on Rt 91
- ET responsible for maintenance- request community assistance, work with DPWs and Parks&Recs
- Jill suggested discussion among Steering Committee for committee feedback/recommendation
- SMPDC to send Robin GIS map to verify accuracy
- ET needs feedback before the February meeting
- Looking for Robin’s input about trail options

**Review and Approve Minutes-** Previous meeting minutes from 10/30/24 (revised) motion to approve by Bob, second by Pete. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- N/A

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

Mt A Conservation Program:

Robin- Unofficial notice of RTP funding approval; possible Field Ponds & Friends of Mount A assistance w/ match.

Ben- Kaily working a few hours a couple of times a week, re-gridding shrubland, and new gator on the way.

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

Regional LE Report:

Gary- Quiet, nothing unusual to report. Working with ATV Law Enforcement grant, extended extra 2 weeks; there are 2 grants per year, hunting season wrapping up. JB asked about Third Hill biking- quiet, no unsanctioned trail openings.

York Water District:

Zach- Quiet, timber harvest finished. Trail/road repair finished up from harvest, planning and year end reports.

Kittery Water District:

Bob- No new news, no timber harvests this year, continuing to work with Reader Forestry to become a certified tree farm.

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

Town of South Berwick: n/a

Town of York:

Pete- Budgets tighter, having to really advocate for them this year.

Great Works Regional Land Trust:

Jill- Zetterberg update in discussion next.

York Land Trust:

Liz- Waiting on encroachment communication with Josh Linehan, potential sale of that property.

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

Guidelines for Use and Access Signs- Recent changes based on feedback from MDIFW and YWD. Josh/MDIFW is ok with calling out no firing weapons within 300' of public trail, added language around tree stands, no fishing in water district ponds, and updated language regarding launching and landing of drones. Bob made a motion to accept Guidelines as written as of 12/10/24, Liz seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Committee reviewed Access signs. Recent changes based on feedback included revising the title and removing language about hours. Updated with YLT new logo. Jill made a motion to approve as written, Pete seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Great Marsh trail access and unauthorized activity- Liz- will want to move boulders back in future. YLT offered price per acre, Zetterberg believe they own 15 acres, surveys dispute size. Jill- Zetterberg called GWRLT, wants more for sale, his survey says 8 acres, Town taxing on 11 acres. Land Trusts sent legal letter to Zetterbergs explaining no rights to land, then he approached both land trusts about purchase. Want to wait to put boulder back until further discussion with Zetterberg.

Conservation Officer Follow Up- Pete spoke with Town Manager who isn't bringing this forward this year. YPD proposed a high budget, they support the position, but not enough funding this year. Steering Committee could present to the Selectboard for FY26, timing would need to start earlier. Current funding level for this position from the water districts ends at the end of 2025 (calendar year). YPD might still be able to fund some thru reserve budget. If not, water districts will fund patrols on their property. Don is still advocating to Town of York and YPD. Committee will discuss in spring and decide how to advocate as a group and present.

**New Business/Future Meeting:**

Robin will follow up with Committee Chair and members for ETA feedback

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 February 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am. Robin will check the availability of Grant House

10:30 AM – Meeting Adjourned.