

Mt. Agamenticus Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: October 14, 2025

Location: Mt A Lodge, York, ME

Time: 09:30 AM – 11:00 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, -----

York Land Trust, Amelia Nadilo and Liz Walworth

York Water District, Don Neumann and Zach Mein

Other Attendees:

YPD, Chief Owen Davis and Lieutenant Nikolaos F. Piskopanis

YWD Intern- Thomas Capano

York Police Department Resource Officer, Gary Stevens

Natural Resource Manager, Robin Kerr

Stewardship and Conservation Coordinator, Ben Jankowski

Chair: Jill Crosbie

Minutes: taken by Zachariah Mein, transcribed by Robin Kerr

Review and Approve Minutes- Previous meeting approved as is. Bob 1st ZM 2nd

ZM Notes, discussion on using AI or human note taking, Jill proposed accepting minutes as written by ZM. Liz, looking into subscription and having time, will review both and make a decision for next year. YLT looking at a few options of AI notes.

Public forum:

- N/A

Correspondence/ presentations/ requests:

Conservation Officer:

- Jill- how do we advocate for this position? Chief Davis- this position has been driven by the Water Districts; the program has changed the watershed from when he was growing up as far as the parties. The program has positively impacted the whole area because of the work of the water districts. Improvements to public safety, response times are due to the Conservation Officer position and having this program in place. When he goes to the Selectboard for funding, need all the support for this position. If chief leaves and this is just a PD position new chief could change how the patrolling happens and could dictate how the patrol happens but with a partnership

of all land holders, stakeholders will have more oversight and leverage over program long-term. He is not going to put gps monitor to dictate where to patrol, will be up to the officer to go where the issues are. Have 2 officers interested, will use overtime funds and tweak schedules so these officers can train with Gary and that is the contribution from the police department. Looking for partner funding and overall support, and not full funding of the position.

- Jill- asked for a job description and Lieutenant Piskopanis provided.
- Jill- How do the partners provide support as a non-profit, who pays what and if we don't contribute does the position not exist?
- Chief Davis- if Water Districts say they are done, then we won't be able to patrol private lands so there will be a decline in presence. Working on training the 2 officers with availability in schedules. Wants officers trained to the standards we have come to know and what is expected and wants them to be familiar with the area.
- Lieutenant Piskopanis - officers will have to learn Garys reporting system to maintain the continuity of landowner reporting.
- Jill- We will have to figure out internally how to fund a monetary contribution. Is there anything the committee can do to advocate i.e. going to board meetings?
- Chief Davis - There is no spot in budget for the PD to have another position, if the position is funded by the stakeholders this position cannot get pulled to patrol for other YPD positions. The water districts have been a major funding contributor,
- Jill- we have to figure out how the rest of us will contribute and the most appropriate way to contribute.
- Amelia- How much are we funding?
- Chief Davis - Position is 130k and that amount won't be fully funded by the partners, that is why PD is trying to get creative.
- Chief Davis - when the position is established there could grow to 30 or 35 hours of patrolling. Biggest fear is losing the position. It will be short time before issues arise from no patrol. It is imperative to have support from this group so we can patrol private lands.
- Amelia-what we need as nonprofit is a correct message and how much we are contributing, is it good faith or a certain amount, is there a way the town can fund this?
- Chief Davis -I have gone to the town for a conservation officer, and it was pulled from budget, fear that a new chief could change that patrolling program if solely under the YPD.
- Jill- With water districts already paying, does that already make it a partner position?
- Don- WD will continue going forward, if this position does not exist, the districts will still pay to have their land patrolled but as a collaborative the position would go farther to patrol the region. Districts will put in \$50k this year with a total goal of \$60k. If the other partners can put towards that other \$10k.
- Jill- Is there a number to cover the officer and the entire cost of supply?

- Chief Davis - For us the position is sustainable at this point, but we want the other stakeholders that are benefiting from this to contribute to this position.
- JB- So position remains part time and are looking for any type of contribution to say there is a support for the program.
- Jill- Can you do a best-case scenario, what is the full budget of what is needed?
- JB- From experience any cost of a detail on private land will be more than the cost of a contribution to the program.
- Chief Davis - We are not looking for a certain amount, but any contributions put the program into checks and balances among all the partners.
- Jill- Do each of us as stakeholders need to contribute or do payment as a group?
- Chief Davis - Separate contributions and letters of support would go further than one collaborative.
- Mention of presentation to the board on the patrol program and funding the position
- Patrol Agreement between the water districts and PD will be revised at the end of this to add the partners of the program. Include job description.
- Chief Davis - The board is always looking for updates and if we get on the agenda will send out notice to committee. Letters of support. Position exists as part time, advocating for full time position to supplement.
- Is there a way for partners to fund raise together towards this position
- Partners will decide how much they can contribute, and town will invoice individual letters of support to town to show broad support
- Goal to draft a letter of support for the program from all partners.
- Individuals talk to boards to discuss amount to fund, Robin will inquire with Pete about timing for budget discussions, for now use Dec 1st deadline.
- Robin will reach out to Josh and Peter for letters

Reports:

Conservation Program

(Robin)

- Maine trails program, state allocated funds, on board for selection

(Ben)

- went on site walk of Perkins with attorneys, next step for town attorney.
- Walked Mark Richard property to see interconnection with YWD could be a work around contested area
- Parking lot finished
- Boulders at Norman Mills area

(Naomi)

- 15 school groups 3 senior centers 3 weddings
- Survey report by Thanksgiving for usage
- Volunteer workday 18th
- Partner hike with YLT and YWD

GWRLT (Jill)

- Nothing to report

YLT (liz)

- Finished ramps on bridges on Wheel trail
- Went with Ben to mark boundaries by Great Marsh trail
- Issues with Mtn Bikers removing boundary markers

YPD (Gary)

- Doing work on trails along the YLT hike for trail markers
- Was told of a tent on Highland preserve, investigated and found tarp over wood splitter near house on Kingsbury Lane
- Parking full at Mt A this past weekend
- Noticed increase in parking at Cedar and YWD 1 since parking fees

YWD (Zach)

- Intern started September and will go thru Jan.
- Projects completed for the year: trail work, bridge, now budget season
- Trail planning for Mark Richard property

KWD

- Nothing watershed wise
- New president of trustees and 2 new members. Bob now Secretary again and still representing this Steering Committee

TOY

- N/A

SB (JB)

- Nothing to report

IFW (update provided by Robin for Josh)

- Parking lot complete
- Hit Phragmites with herbicide and buckthorn

Discussion:

- Charter-
 - Changed language in boundaries to match rules of Use
 - Admin Framework
 - Accept- JB 1st Amelia 2nd all approved
- MOU-
 - Should financial commitment be included in the MOU
 - All contribute through financial or other means-2nd to last paragraph.
 - Update MOU for approval for Dec. Meeting
- Richard Property Trail
 - YWD making trail into Richard cabin to clean out
 - Could abandon trail after and close it or could be connected to Mt A.
 - CFW recently asked for connection to Mt A trail.
 - Robin has a meeting this afternoon with CFW to understand what their goals are.

- How to work together with them bringing more people into the area Mt A is managing.
- Benefits of having CFW as new partner to steering committee
- CFW is having issues with Dan Perkins and not able to connect to current trails.
- What is the visitor rate and will it bring influx of people
- Robin will report back after meeting

New Business: Strategic plan next discussion plan- does Committee want to move forward for 2026?

Next meeting – Dec 9, 9:30am, at York Land Trust headquarters