

Mt. Agamenticus Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: December 09, 2025

Location: YLT, 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, Peter Murray

York Land Trust, Amelia Nadilo

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 and Education Coordinator, Naomi Densmore

Chair: Jill Crosbie

Minutes: taken by Zachariah Mein, transcribed by Robin Kerr

Review and Approve Minutes- Previous meeting 10/14/25 approved as is.

Public forum:

- N/A

Correspondence/ presentations/ requests:

- N/A

Reports:

Conservation Program

(Robin)

- Fire tower came down recently, will plan what to do with the new open flat area; will work on new lodge display to highlight history and cultural importance of fire tower.
- Worked to score applications with Maine Trails Program as part of Maine Trails Advisory Committee. Group meeting next week. Next round in June.
- Jed Talbot from OBP Trailworks is the contractor for the Big A universal trail project. He has ordered cedar ordered/milled and planning on doing deck this winter and some board walks as weather allows. Rest of project happening in spring.

- The Southern Maine Invasive Plant Coalition (SMIPC) meeting next week with Alex Peacock, Director of the Maine Board of Pesticides Control and Gary Fish, State Horticulturist. Meeting is virtual, Tuesday at 6 PM. Robin will add Bob to the invite list.
- Invasive plant management project underway at Goodrich Park. Forestry mulching to occur this week.
- Worked with Friends of Mount A to submit grant for milkweed plugs. If successful, we will plant at the summit to support pollinator species. FOMA are also working on Fields Pond grant to help with match funds for Big A trail and starting to plan a dedication for Marion's Brook.

(Ben)

- Cleaned up Zetterburg camp and plan to burn this week with GWRLT.
- This year, with larger crew, was able to get out to 2nd and 3rd hills to monitor those areas more often
- Successful "leave the leaves" campaign
- Replaced plastic "No ATVs" sign that someone put up with one of our permanent signs and was contacted by dirt biker about it. Roger Wharton had put the plastic one up and Ben will meet with him to give it back.
- Working on end of year reports, stewardship and invasive plants

(Naomi)

- Co-hosted 2nd annual group Sea to Mt. A trail hike with YLT
- Working on a report and data processing for the annual visitor use survey
- End of year reports
- FOMA received funding over the summer for youth programming and will work on putting that money into projects

Regional Patrol Report (Gary)

- Handed out Patrol Summary since last Steering Committee meeting, 6 weeks
- Has been out with the 2 officers that are interested in the position, Dave McKinnon and Mike Silange
- Feels these officers are a good fit and will be more focused on education versus summons. Needs to be a resource.
- Biggest issue is the officers having the time to do the training, Dave is the school resource officer and has some more time available.
- Both will be trained to have proper coverage
- Note- someone found a lost wallet during patrol, leg injury on Mt A
- Still hears of mountain bikers but sees a decline in numbers, particularly in water district areas
- Pete asked- in Mount A area where do you notice hunting? Gary- in or near the Cedar swamp and out by Bennet Lot Road, a lot more on district properties but has noticed an overall decline.

Partner Updates

YWD (Zach)

- Budget Season
- Community Outreach, Fostering Trees, Intern, Parade of Lights
- Richard cabin, looking at removal with minimal cost with budget constraints

KWD

- Budget Season, not much activity in the watershed
- Ponds are way down and concerning. If there is no good snow cover, may do water restrictions if level does not come up
- Navy project
- Looking at dam work

MDIFW (Josh)

- Josh not able to attend but reported the completion of the parking lot project off the Bennet Lot Road (GWRLT's Checkerberry Trail).

TOY

- First round of budget submitted, concerned there will be tight cuts
- Happy there is still movement with the Resource officer with budget
- Doesn't anticipate any issues with Mount A coming up caused by budget, admission fee has helped.
- Beach parking has increased as well as talk of increase to parking stickers; no foreseen increase to Mount A parking fee
- First time that there is no addition of staff to Town budget
- Overall things are going well
- Potential school consolidation project

SB (JB)

- Has noticed more relaxation on variances/buildable lots and more building allowed where it hasn't before.

GWRLT (Jill)

- Received Maine Trails Program grant for universal access trail on Old Boston preserve, hopefully can start next year if can find a contractor
- Hope to close next week on parcel in Wells, near Bennet Road, 131 acres and abuts a few other parcels
- Rondo Parcel abuts land GWRLT owns on Cox Pond scheduled to close in Jan
- Has been difficult to raise funds and compete with developers for parcels offering sometimes 2x more

YLT (Amelia)

- TOY has voted to convey some lots (McIntire Highlands, Belle Marsh, and Third Hill) to YLT but needs survey work which has issues
- Received fee for McFeely preserve off Clay Hill and just closed on that parcel, will become public access
- Planning small parking for that area.
- Received 101 acres off logging road
- No biking on either, State required on Clay Hill, owner on Logging Rd

- Liz is leading a stewardship workday today at Fuller Forest, putting in a bridge and mini kiosk
- Looking into unauthorized trail access from roadways

Discussion:

Conservation Officer-

- GWRLT sent in letter for support and committed to 1400\$, waiting for confirmation and invoice
- YLT will be submitting letter and committed 1000\$ for Jan 26, each year will determine amount with what is needed
- Gary will look into monthly invoices or annual payment; land trusts prefer annual
- Robin reached out to Josh for letter of support but has not yet received response
- Discussion on Highland Farm for patrolling and SAR map, will be left as is for PD and FD, YLT prefer no ATV's on property but ok for patrols and emergency purposes.

MOU-

- Minor edits and name updates
- Add date revision and how often to sign, will create final version and send out for electronic signatures

Strategic Plan-

- Would have to find funds,
- Last one was 2015-2018
- Jill requests Robin go through the old strategic plan review status of recommended action items and call out items not completed that still need to be addressed
- Committee will then determine if items should be added and if a strategic plan is needed to accomplish those things
- What grants and funding sources are there? Would York River Watershed grant fund a conservation officer? Funds need to stay in the York River watershed.

New Business:

- Discussed having CFW for next meeting and possibly joining Mount A Steering Committee.

Action items: MOU to be electronically signed, Strategic Plan to be reviewed and discussed at next meeting

Next meeting – Tuesday, February 10th, 9:30 a.m. at Grant House, 200 US Rt. 1, York, ME