

Mount Agamenticus Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Day: Wednesday, January 20, 2010
Location: Grant House, York, Maine
Time: 10:10 a.m.-11:20 a.m.
Chair: Doreen MacGillis

Members Present:

Conservation Coordinator, Robin Kerr
GWRLT, Darrell DeTour
MDIF&W, Judy Camuso
The Nature Conservancy, -----
Town of South Berwick, Sharon Brassard
Town of York, Mike Sullivan
York Land Trust, Doreen MacGillis
York Water District, Gary Stevens

Public Present: none

Chair: Doreen MacGillis

Minutes taken by: Darrell DeTour, transcribed by Robin Kerr

Approved minutes from previous meeting: 11/18/09

Minutes were approved as written.

Public forum: *No public present*

Correspondence/ presentations/ requests: *Robin summarized Brian Valimont's archaeological report regarding the rockpile relocation project at the summit. Discussion ensued as to how to move forward with signage. Mike wants to get this done as soon as possible. Committee reviewed history for Sharon. Will have sign installed as soon as ground thaws.*

Gary Steven's report:

Gary described the results shown in his report. His presence on the watershed lands has made a big difference in how people are using the area. There is less trash, fewer swimming incidents, fewer fires, etc. People are showing greater respect for the area and District policies.

Coordinator's report:

- Robin talked about the 2009 Summary Report- its been 10 years since Conservation Program at Mt. A began. She highlighted some major accomplishments: concentrated on trail surface repair and storm damage cleanup; redid trail boxes; replaced signs on 1st Hill; maintained status quo on invasives; developed interpretive panels. Mike described ongoing work on the panels at the lodge and budget for the project. The construction of the cabinets is temporarily on hold until we can find funding to complete it. More work is being done than previously planned (e.g. reframed windows and walls around windows) costing more.*
- Recently in the News- Nature Center/Museum was approved by York Board of Selectmen. Mike believes taking the time to present the Summit Guidelines to the Board worked well. They were prepped ahead of time with the overview. The Board asked questions but had no issues with conversion of lodge to nature/education center. Robin shared this article along with one regarding a local group trying to save the old Agamenticus Village school house. She is also monitoring web pages, blogs, photos, etc. posted on the internet about Mt. A using Google alerts and is getting ~4 alerts/day. This is just another tool to keep informed.*

Budget update: *n/a*

Discussion item: *learning lodge- friends to organize "open house"- Group reviewed minutes of "Friends" meeting from November. The minutes described a time line and action items for early, mid, and late winter as we gear up for an open house. Some of things the group is working toward having in place are a brochure & logo, newsletter template, a webpage, a guest list, flyers, and best places to publicize the*

event to the community, program development, physical project development, and displays. The Steering Committee didn't have any issues with the outline. Mike asked if we would have some kind of tour or live presentation. Robin thought they may have a guided walkthrough but hasn't developed the program yet. They are looking at having a private/donor nite prior to the public open house on Saturday June 26th. Sharon mentioned that this is South Berwick's Strawberry Festival weekend and Doreen also would not be able to attend. Robin would like stakeholders present to talk about conservation efforts so will need to look at some alternate dates.

booklets from learning lodge panels- Robin received 14 at no charge from Don Watson. These booklets feature the 24 panels and are quite nice. Robin has given a copy to each partner and will use the remainder as a fundraising tool. She had received some requests from individuals to purchase and rec'd some quotes from Don. She can get 50 copies for ~\$800 and would have to sell them for more than \$16 a piece to make any profit. Don had suggested using these booklets to entice donors to sponsor the printing by adding their name on inside cover. Doreen thought it would also make a good thank you gift to funding or easement donors.

Gateway to Maine- Outside/proposed mapping project- the land trusts and other local groups have been talking about ways to promote their events in southern Maine. Three ways to accomplish this are: community website where each group can publish own event (walks, activities, workdays, etc.) and place it on a joint calendar for the area; note-card mailer being developed to list a couple events each month; and a regional map. The map would feature some of the public land available for recreation with landowner permission. Robin led a preliminary meeting to discuss the map possibility to see if it is a worthwhile project and to define project a little better for funding proposals.

New business item: meeting schedule- proposal to move meetings from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of each month was accepted to see if it better accommodates all.

Adjourn 11:20am

Next meeting scheduled for February 17th at 1:00 p.m.
Location: Grant House, York, ME