

Mount Agamenticus Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Day: Wednesday, February 24, 2010
Location: Grant House, York, Maine
Time: 10:00 a.m.-11:15 a.m.
Chair: Doreen MacGillis

Members Present:

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

Public Present: none

Chair: Doreen MacGillis

Minutes taken by: Darrell DeTour, transcribed by Robin Kerr

Approved minutes from previous meeting: 01/20/10

Minutes were approved as written.

Public forum: *No public present*

Correspondence/ presentations/ requests: *Robin discussed request from Dena Tufts of River Green Bank to organize a road race up Mt. Agamenticus. The event would benefit Young Maine Readers. Robin gave her a special use permit application and contact information for York Parks Dept. Mike explained that the group would also need a special event permit issued thru York Selectmen. Robin has also received a few more inquires/requests to have managed down hill ski trails. She is looking into the possibility of re-routing and consolidating two former ski trails (Vulture's View & Sweetfern) so that they are more sustainable through out the year and perhaps make them conducive to down hill skiing in the winter. She may have a volunteer engineer interested in helping to determine trail feasibility.*

Gary Steven's report:

Gary was unavailable due to algae bloom in Chase's pond.

Coordinator's report:

- *cut ski trails- More unauthorized cutting of trees and branches has occurred this year off of Vulture's View trail to benefit down hill skiers. Several saplings and branches were cut in the same area last year. Robin posted signs and visited site with Gary. Both will continue to monitor.*
- *activity photo log- Two new trails signs have been shot with BB guns; animal remains found along dirt section of Mountain Road including bagged skunk, opossum, skinned bobcat, beaver, and musk rat. Robin contacted Maine Warden and collected latter three to save for educational purposes.*
- *SAR update- Robin coordinated brief meeting between representatives for KWD, YWD, and Mt.A to review what had been accomplished during last field season and to collectively prioritize work for the next. All trails with water district area were gps'd last season, a new sign template was designed by Mt.A, and Ben MacDougal, York's Shoreland Protection Officer reviewed post locations. Group will move forward with one permit application for post and sign installations. Group plans to meet next week to identify exact sign locations to help determine precise sign text/language. Robin sent written meeting notes to update larger SAR working group.*
- *G2MO update- New website gatewaytomaineoutside.org, postcard, and flier announcing and briefly describing joint adventure in nature series has been completed. Each organization has to only plan & lead 2 events but can take advantage of all 12 throughout the year. Robin recruited the assistance of Mt. A volunteer to develop survey evaluation card for G2MO*

participants to fill out after events. Robin will continue to search for possible free online survey to develop in conjunction with card.

- 2010 season priorities & scheduled workdays- Robin talked about 2010 projects, priorities, and workdays. She reviewed handout and will email a digital copy to Committee. Recreational Trails Program funding looks promising for this season. DOC is still waiting for federal funding before confirming. Plus there may be an opportunity to conduct another service project with Timberland this year as well.
- intern(s) shared with CFW- Mt. A will be getting at least one and possibly two volunteer interns this year. The internship is part time and will be shared with the Center for Wildlife. Interns will focus on outreach and education at the mountain, will help with the set-up of the learning lodge and will answer questions/help visitor's during open operating hours.
- youth enrichment fair- Robin will set up and attend a table at the next annual Youth Enrichment Fair to be held this weekend at the York Library. She will highlight litter patrol, native landscaping, and adopt-a-trail opportunities for youth and their families.

Budget update: Mike presented updated budget for FY10 and proposed FY11. Budget generally looks solid as long as remaining partners send in their contributions.

Discussion item: st. Aspinquid sign draft- Committee reviewed and discussed Robin's proposed language of signage for new rock pile location. Committee approved language and authorized Robin to move forward with signage as proposed, with some minor edits. Robin will forward approved signage to Brian Michaud and start looking into size & price options.

New business item: lodge office space- Robin discussed letter to Selectmen regarding use of apartment at lodge for office staff and friends group. Mike brought up issue of security but will be relatively easy to install security alarm system with current fire alarm system. Group agrees move makes sense, will give Robin and crew/volunteers much more flexibility and wants to give it a try. The move would open up the back room for possible crew housing during busy season. Having a person trained by conservation staff/management would be advantageous and a more appropriate public interface than a tenant with no connection to the stewardship program. Doreen and Robin will review any Selectmen concerns and Robin will address issue in presentation to Selectmen sometime in March.

Next meeting will be at 1:00-2:30 PM. Committee will conduct Robin's annual evaluation after regular meeting at 2:30-3:00 PM.

Adjourn 11:15am

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