

10-YEAR PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2009

Auto Road Base

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

Members Present:

Chair: Guy Gosselin
Howie Wemyss (Auto Road)
Scott Henley (MWO)
Suzanne Gorman (Asst. Atty. Gen.)

David Neely (USFS)
Michael Pelchat (DRED)
Walter Graff (AMC)

Absent

Wayne Presby (Cog RR)
Tim Moore (Citadel)

The Chair announced a two-item agenda; namely, a review of sections A and C of the draft 10-year plan, and a question period with Atty. Gorman.

The Chair distributed a rewrite of sections A and C and expressed the opinion that the role of the 10-year Planning Committee was to produce a plan that was specific where possible, but broad where consultants were involved. The Chair thanked those members who provided detailed input, then outlined a process whereby qualified consultants would take and weigh input from all interested parties and use their expertise to fashion a plan that would maximize the visitor experience.

After considerable discussion, the committee unanimously endorsed the broad approach as generally expressed in the rewrite.

The committee discussed the advisory role of the Commission in the management of the summit and concluded that a positive relationship between the Commission and DRED and the Division of Parks is key to best serving the needs of the people of the State of New Hampshire.

Mike Pelchat briefed the committee on the statewide planning process currently being conducted by the Division of Parks. A North Country meeting is being held for the general public at the North Country Resource Center (629B Main Street) in Lancaster on June 11 from 4 to 7 p.m. Mr. Pelchat suggested that it might be to the advantage of the Commission to enter that planning process in order to request funding for any urgent purposes in the upcoming biennium.

Mr. Pelchat agreed to find out how much time the Commission had in which to request funding for the upcoming biennium.

Walter Graff suggested that the committee should apprise the Division of Parks of the elements of the draft 10-year plan. The Chair expressed the opinion that the draft plan should first be finalized.

The committee revisited the issue of establishing a fund for possible donations and/or grants obtained by the Commission specifically for Commission purposes. The reason for this discussion was an understanding that monies dedicated for a particular purpose could not exist from year to year in the so-called Mount Washington Fund. Doubt was expressed that this understanding was correct, and Mr. Pelchat agreed to investigate the matter with Ken Plourde.

Dave Neeley noted that a correction requested by him noting that hiker fees were mandatory rather than voluntary had not yet been made. Mr. Gosselin indicated that he would make that correction.

The Chair indicated that a revised draft of the 10-year plan would be circulated as soon as the update was completed, and approved and/or amended via e-mail. The committee adjourned without arranging for another meeting.
