

**Mount Washington Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2007**  
**Mount Washington State Park, Tip Top House**

**Members in attendance:**

Paul Fitzgerald, Public (Chairman)  
Charles Kenison, Cog Railway designee  
Rep Martha McLeod, House  
Jack Middleton, MW Observatory

Howard Wemyss, MW Auto Road  
Paul Cunha, AMC designee  
Barnie Gyant, WMNF designee

**Members absent:**

Senator John Gallus, Senate  
Paul Ingersoll, Public

Guy Gosselin, Public

**Other present:**

Allison McLean, Director, Div Parks & Rec  
Tom Mansfield, DRED Architect  
Paul Leary, DRED Communications Admin  
Mike Pelchat, MW State Park Manager  
Torene Tango-Lowy, Clerk, Div Parks & Rec

Scot Henley, MW Observatory  
Ken Rancourt, MW Observatory  
Bruce Sloat, Self  
Edith Tucker, Coos County Democrat

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I. Welcome Chairman Paul Fitzgerald called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Members and attendees introduced themselves.

II. Approval of minutes Minutes were amended to reflect a completion date of September 2007 and an operation date by winter 2007. Minutes were accepted as amended, unanimously.

III. Report from partners AMC. Mr. Cunha reported that the Carter Notch facility is in full service. AMC has increased its patrols, especially on the west-side due to summer storms.

*Auto Road.* Mr. Wemyss reported an early opening. Memorial Day weekend and recent events have been well attended, including the first alternative energy climb. Weather has impacted the road paving.

*Cog Railway.* Mr. Kenison reported that Cog ridership is up 30%. The bio-diesel engine is operational, with another coming online in late summer.

*Observatory.* Mr. Henley reported a decent start for retail and membership operations. A website of Brad Washburn's B&W photography will be launched on Monday ([www.washburngallery.org](http://www.washburngallery.org)). "Seek the Peak" is scheduled for July 28; 150 attendees are expected. The MWO is redesigning their logo; it will be introduced at the Annual Meeting in September. A series of meetings on climate change will be hosted during the summer.

*State Parks.* Mr. Pelchat reported extremes in weather, including an October wind blast of 158 mph. Mr. Pelchat recognized Parks staff Mr. Uggerholt as having kept the generators protected and running through the extreme weather. Fortunately, there were no hiker fatalities this past season. The Park opened on May 12 and Tip Top House will open on June 30. Staffing has been reduced to keep within budget. The septic beds will be refurbished, an oil spill plan updated, and new fuel lines and alarms installed for DES compliance. The diesel generators will be refurbished in August. The Parks staff has become skilled at maintaining the communications equipment; abandoned dishes will be removed.

*WMNF.* Mr. Gyant reported that the Forest Service is restructuring and has had to cut back 10% and is operating with 75% less in seasonal staff. However, Molly Fuller will be the new Pemi district ranger starting August 20. The Forest Service is implementing vegetation projects from the Forest Plan and is seeking private funding. The Campton office is expected to be completed at the end of 2009.

IV. Power update Mr. Mansfield reported that the easement with Cog Railway was approved by Governor and Council on May 2, 2007. The electrification contracts were renewed with capital budget end dates

extended to June 2009. June 19 kicked off the Phase II work with White Mountain Communications working two crews. The budget is tight with cost increases. Fiber optic will connect into the existing Bretton Woods Telephone system at the Marshfield base station. Project completion is scheduled for September 2008. Members discussed the fiber optic arrangement with BWT; the state will negotiate with BWT, with assistance from the PUC. Mr. Fitzgerald expressed concern over the delayed easement agreement and its push out of project completion. Mr. Mansfield will provide the commission with regular project updates.

V. Any other business

Director McLean provided an update to Senate Bill 74. It calls for a strategic plan that will be the basis of capital budget requests; a financial audit; an oversight committee; and establishes a historic sites bureau. The capital budget (HB25) includes \$6.5 million for infrastructure and deferred maintenance repairs and revenue enhancements, including cabins and pavilions.

The State and Dartmouth are targeting 2010 for the acquisition of the Dartmouth property, appraised at \$1.3 million.

VIII. Adjourn The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. The next meeting is at the call of the chairman.

*Submitted by T. Tango-Lowy.*