

**Bear Brook State Park Management Plan Revision
Steering Committee Meeting – 1/23/19**

Meeting was called to order at 5:35pm by Chair Avis Rosenfield

Steering Committee Members Present

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Avis Rosenfield	Non-Motorized Recreation
Armand Verville	Cultural and Historic Resources
Tom St. Martin	Town of Candia
Eric Orff	Game and Sportsmen
Dan Dwyer	Non-Motorized Recreation
Suzanne Smith	State Park System Advisory Council
Carol Foss	Non Game Wildlife
Steve Hampl	Motorized Recreation
Matthew Lavoie	Town of Hooksett

Steering Committee Members Absent

Jeff Lougee,	Forest Ecology
Brian Adams	Conservation Commission
Wendy Weisiger	Forest Management
Tom DiMaggio	Recreation at Large (Chair)
Jeff Ames	Forest Products industry
Sandra McKenney	Town of Allenstown

Division Staff

Johanna Lyons	Billy Kunelius	Christina Pacuk	Kyle Lombard
Will Guinn	Tara Blaney	Melissa Doperalski	
Scott Rolfe	Mark Doperalski	Jim Oehler	

Chairperson Avis Rosenfield requests committee members introduce themselves. Last meeting's minutes are summarized by Johanna Lyons and were accepted by the committee without corrections. Jim Oehler distributed handouts for the "Trails for People and Wildlife" presentation he gave last meeting. Will and Johanna updated the committee on a recent meeting of the technical team and proposed a new timeline for chapter presentations. The technical team would like to get the property to field truth some of the recommendations in the early spring which would delay the presentation of the recreation chapter. As of now the plan is that Forest Management will be released in March and the Recreation Chapter in April.

Will Guinn brought discussed edits to the wildlife chapter, including fixing the table and recommendations. The technical team met to review species setbacks and timing issues. Will asked everyone to look at the edits that were made and to view the new sections on fish that was added. Jim made a recommendation to add another paragraph on NGO's groups and partnering. As we progress through the plan, we will revisit chapters and make changes and edits as we go. Always go back and review past chapters for edits that have been made.

Discussion

- Eric related a personal experience of counting salamanders on the road by his house. Over the years he has seen a decrease in the number of salamanders crossing in the spring. Should we limit night wheeled activities seasonally at the park?
- Dan asked if there should be a limitation on night riding and when it is necessary.
- Melissa explained the spring migration conditions that would trigger the salamanders and other amphibians to migrate. She recommended looking at maps of vernal pool complexes to predict movement between areas. In the future we need to do more work surveying amphibians since the information is not on hand.
- Dan offered that information can be shared with mountain bikers. Other groups have moved their events for the turtle's season.
- Will said this something that we are going to have to discuss. Is there any evidence of salamander mortality on trails?
- Johanna said that if it is an issue on particular trails or road the park can manage it by temporarily closing trails and roads. It would be a voluntary prohibition and need to educate the visitors. We will have to identify key or core areas that we would want to put the message out. As we move along we can go back to certain details so we can stay on schedule.

Forest Health

Presenter Kyle Lombard

NHDFL Forest Health Program

This presentation included historic forest health issues at the park and southern NH. One of the biggest forest health issues was White Pine Blister rust which has basically been eradicated by the expatriation of the alternate host, plants in the ribies genre. Kyle spoke about insect affects including gypsy moths, red pine scale, emerald ash borer and hemlock wooly adelgid. The Forest Health program maintains a webpage, www.nhbugs.com where you can information on insects and make a report. Kyle also discussed the number of insects (good & bad) that can be moved in firewood. It is good practice to buy your firewood locally and not transport it.

Kyle reviewed his recommendations; it is always good practice to address forest health issues quickly. It is not practical to treat a whole forest with pesticides so best to harvest while there is still value in the tree. A risk tree program should be established in the park to monitor and manage trees by cutting dead branches and trees in poor health.

Comments and Questions

- Dan: What is White Pine Blister Rust? What does it do?
- Kyle: It's a fungus that causes needles to die which decreases the photosynthesis for the tree.
- Eric: How did the gypsy moths effect the forests?
- Kyle: It greatly affected oak and there was some white pine mortality
- Dan: There were many questions about the red pine sanitation harvest and concerns that the salvage was a just a money making project.

- Kyle: Red pine scale is a 100% mortality rate. The scale weakens the trees allowing for other insects to take advantage of poor health. The holes bored by these insects are a conduit for fungus to enter which can cause blue staining, lessening the value of the wood. Trees, once infected have about a 5 year life span.
- Will: The salvage was planned to harvest the wood while it still had value.
- Steve: How did the Emerald Ash Borer get to New Hampshire from Detroit?
- Kyle: Firewood and likely pallets. Detroit is a major port.
- Eric: With having these quarantines in place, has it slowed down?
- Kyle: Yes. Weather and we caught this really early on. It has spread more naturally and not carried by transportation at this point.
- Avis: Should the public be tagging risk trees?
- Kyle: No, discuss with staff where the tree is and the park staff will assess the trees.

Climate Change

Presenter Scott Rolfe, Regional Forester, South Region
Division of Forests and Lands

Scott's presentation introduced what we currently know about climate change, such as how the temperature has risen, an increase in growing seasons, rain patterns and effects of animals and plants and forest trend predictions. Over the next 100 years it is predicted to have a large loss in species and our forests will change. Some of these effects shown for an example is reduced suitable habitat, pests and diseases impacting the species diversity and forest productivity increase or decrease. Habitat changes will affect wildlife with the loss of tree species and connectivity. Recreation will be impacted by weather changes that will affect trail maintenance and traditional recreational use patterns. In addition it is expected to be an increase of insect born diseases from ticks and mosquitos. Scott discussed ways to adapt to the changes expected; resistance, the improvement of ecosystems against anticipated change; resilience, creating diversity and; transition, assisting replacement species.

Scott concluded by discussing his recommendations. Mitigate, adapt and consider vulnerability assessments. Promote landscape connectivity and work with research partners. Monitor and control pests, diseases and invasive plants. Plan for recreation use changes and educate our public.

Steering Committee Comment:

- Dan: In a Timber harvest, what percentage of carbon ends back up in the atmosphere?
- Will: About 40 percent of a harvest
- Will: We all need forest products. It is better to get in a sustainable manner.
- Dan: That is really surprised me, when I go back to speak with our group I can give them the correct information.
- Avis: The DAR Pine Forest when the harvest happened, it was a shock driving in and suddenly seeing that.
- Will: We did a press release and did outreach through social media to get the word out. As well as posting it on our webpage.
- Avis: People just don't go to the webpage. I directed a lot of people to view the webpage

- Will: We also had signs posted and that still remain up
- Johanna: Kyle did a great presentation on the red pine scale that is posted up on the webpage
- Tom St: I am not really sure who to address this question to but on chapter 7, 8 and 9 all seem to be connected with inventories of wildlife and plant life. There is a lot of specific species information. What about forest as a whole and fungi? Is this on any ones radar?
- Scott: It will be a part of soil health and habitat.
- Will: There will be a forest soils section in the forest management chapter
- Scott: We do not go into deep detail about fungi but habitat
- Tom St: There is almost an inventory of mammals and trees just wanted to see what else would be included
- Will: A lot of the best management practices have been used and set in place, in theory all of these things are protected under them- the entire ecosystem. I think it's going beyond the scope of this plan
- Dan: To bring up an earlier topic, related to the garage in the hiker biker lot. It's in the chapter as an asset, I think it's on page 18. I know there has been discussion in improving the user's experience. I don't know if we discussed the details going in the use of that building. I would just like to get it on the record that I think we should consider the opportunities this building could have as a visitor center and enhanced bathroom and changing room potential.
- Will: I think it is good we get it on the record and we can certainly address that as we work on the recreation chapter and revisit the infrastructure chapter
- Johanna: Throughout this planning effort we have recognized that Podunk road is the southern gate way to the park. We have to rethink how we are using our resources and how we are managing.
- Dan: we would just like to formalize it because our user group has a significant presence in that area. Our group can bring resources to bare on projects. Our group would be resources in to make this happen.
- Johanna: As the park planner, I always want to reuse things and repurpose buildings but sometimes you need to start from scratch.

Next Meeting date for March 5th at 5:30pm

Department of Natural and Cultural Resources 172 Pembroke Road, Concord

Meeting Ends: 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Christina Pacuk, Park Manager