

**Bear Brook State Park Management Plan Revision
Steering Committee Meeting – 10/17/19**

Meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Chair Tom DiMaggio

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
Wendy Weisiger	Forest Management
Tom DiMaggio	Recreation at Large (Chair)
Matthew Lavoie	Town of Hooksett
Jeff Ames	Forest Products Industry
Suzanne Smith	State Park System Advisory Council

Steering Committee Members Absent

Jeff Lougee, Forest Ecology
Steve Hampl, Motorized Recreation
Sandra McKenney, Town of Allentown
Carol Foss, Non Game Wildlife
Brian Adams, Conservation Commission

Members of the public:

Marie-Eve Jacques- Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
David Simmons- Backcountry Hunters and Anglers
Heather Kusmierz

Technical Team

Will Guinn	Mark Doperalski
Johanna Lyons	Pete Bowman
Tara Blaney	Christina Barton
Scott Rolfe	

Chairperson Tom DiMaggio asked for a motion to accept the minutes; there was a correction to be made regarding the fitness loop but was later retracted due to the finding of the fitness loop comments in last meetings minutes. Last meetings minutes were accepted and the committee approved them.

Email from NH Backcountry Hunters and Anglers was distributed to all committee members for review.

Johanna Lyons introduced the chapters that would be discussed, who would be presenting and edits of previous drafts.

Will Guinn presented significant changes that were revised in previous chapters.

- Chapter 1. Page 2. Included all DNCR divisions and bureaus in DFL/DPR that have land management responsibility including Division of Historical Resources
- Chapter 2 Page 7. The vision has been revised to reflect that while forestry operations are practiced for economic gain, it will also include the goal of protecting natural resources.
- Chapter 4 Page 27. The suggest edit to the vision regarding looking outside the park boundaries for additional property to conserve is better reflected as a recommendation for landscape analysis chapter.
- Infrastructure Page 19. More details and information regarding Spruce Pond camp has be added.

The purpose of this process is to continue to make edits as we go along. Suggested edits or changes should be sent to Will Guinn and/or Johanna Lyons.

Draft Plan Edits: Chapters 1-4

- Tom DiMaggio: Dam inventory on Page 16. What is X, Y and Z
- Johanna Lyons: This is a place holder for further information. We will list the construction of all dams, along with the type of dam they are.
- Tom DiMaggio: Page 23 3rd bullet sustainable trails list does not include sled dogs
 - It is agreed that the wording will be changed to either not call out any groups or to generalize them all.
 - Bullets 1 and 2 will be changed and placed together

Chapter Five: Ecological Assessment

Presenter Pete Bowman, DNCR – Division of Forests and Lands, Natural Heritage Bureau

This presentation included the physical setting and vegetation of Bear Brook State Park. Pete presented the different types of vegetation, ecological systems (forest types/wetland types), and soils and where you can find them on the map of the park.

The recommendations of the Natural Heritage Bureau for Bear Brook is to conduct rare plant surveys, document invasive species, and have the entire property evaluated for the sustainability of prescribed fire.

Comments:

Dan Dwyer: Will information about fauna be included?

Pete Bowman: Fauna will be written by NH Fish and Game

Wendy: How much of Bear Brook has been surveyed by NHB?

Pete: No much has been surveyed, however, staff members have evaluated properties adjacent to Bear Brook that may indicate what may be on the park.

Tom St Martin: Trails seem to go through some of these exemplary areas.

Pete: Certain exemplary areas such as wetlands most people will try to avoid, other areas can be mitigated.

Tom St. Martin: What about the Appalachian oak sections?

Pete Bowman: We would like to limit recreation from going onto these exemplary areas

Will Guinn: NHB looks at any project that is occurring on state lands. Pete will also work with Fish and Game when reviewing these sensitive areas.

Tom DiMaggio: It would be nice to have trails go up to these areas for guests to explore and to have signage to educate visitors

Pete Bowman: We have some trails that will approach these areas and interpretive signage might be possible.

Dan Dwyer: Bear Brook has different layers that will interest different people, maybe we can feature some of these features on the new trail map.

Will Guinn: NHB has produced a brochure on black gum at Fox State Forest.

Tom St Martin: Is a boardwalk possible through area like this? There are other properties have them.

Pete Bowman: Wet areas would need a board walk to go through it

Chapter Six: Cultural Resources

Presenter Mark Doperalski, DNCR Division of Historical Resources

Mark: Bear Brook has been inhabited for thousands of years however, there has been limited investigation and only 3 archeological sites have been studied. The park has a high potential for more archeological sites. There are several areas in the park that have good resources that would have attracted people. For an example: Suncook River would have been a good place for pre-contact people to settle seasonally and Podunk Road, post-contact communities were formed as seen by the cellar holes and cemeteries. Pre-contact finds include burnt bone, hearths, and debris. There is potential to find even more evidence of post-contact settlement such as old wells, nails, glass, and brick or even axe heads. The whole park is registered as a historical place.

Recommendations: ID and survey areas sensitive for archeological deposits. Implement a monitoring and protection program

Comments:

Dan Dwyer: Levitt cemetery is a well-known cemetery in the park. However the unknown civil war soldier is not shown on a map.

Mark D: Will put on map.

Wendy W: Metal detecting and pilfering happens at some sites- which is why it tends to be left out of reports. The maps being shown have these sites outlined- seeing that kind of freaks me out.

Mark D: The map in the plan will not be feature protected sites. The maps in my presentation are just to keep track of these sites and are not known to public. We are very careful and do our best to protect sites. Metal Detecting is only allowed on State beaches

Tom DiMaggio: Will you be putting into the plan that "X, Y and Z Indian tribe was there or had their territory here?"

Mark: One of the goals of our program is to look more into interpretive signage or to have shadow boxes. It's a great way of getting people interested in the resources we want to protect, we just aren't going to say where exactly these sites are.

Dan Dwyer: Tourism is a big draw and the CCC camp is a significant attribute of the park. How might it fit into those recommendations? How do you better attract people to come and view these things?

Mark: As far as more interpretation and advertisement. That is something that we are looking to do and to get visitors interested.

Johanna Lyons: It's up to the Division of Parks and Recreation to interpret this technical information to the public. As we build on our knowledge we try to integrate that into our Discover the Power of the Parks Program.

Dan Dwyer: With the centennial of the CCC coming up how do we consider going forward and incorporating attributes like this into the plan?

Johanna Lyons: I will write myself a note, unfortunately the CCC alumni group has dissolved since all the members have passed. To tell you the truth, we don't even have a good inventory of all of those resources that we have down at Bear Brook. I'll keep my eyes open, in the future get that inventory work done.

Mark D: We want to press there are things of interest in the park and draw people in for historical reasons. We want to get people excited.

Mark explained how there are forms to fill out if items are found on DHR website and who should be contacted when they are found. Armand expressed how the museums use to have hosts who would camp outside the buildings and open the museums 7 days a week in the summer. Today the museums are only open for 2 hours on Saturdays in the summer. Contact information has been posted online at our website of who to contact to see the museum, as well as on the museum doors itself. Armand also noted how the nature center is falling apart and something needs to be done before this historical and important building is lost.

Public Comment:

David S: A question for Pete- Are there any habitats in the park historically that were taken care of by people who used to reside in the park?

Pete: We've talked about the Black Gum wetlands which were pretty well ignored. Most of the park has a consistent history of landscape- farming, timber management. In general, not really out there in Bear Brook.

Tom St: Watershed section 5, talks about Beaver pond area and how it separates into the Lamprey. This area also has separate stream- Hall Mountain ridge crossing

Pete: I'll correct the text some streams go into Lamprey and not the Merrimack.

Next Meeting date for November 21st 2019 at 5:30pm

NH Fish and Game Department Headquarters, Hazen Drive, Concord.

Meeting Ends: 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Christina Barton, Park Manager