

Pisgah State Park Steering Committee  
 October 7, 2008  
 5:00 – 7:00 pm  
 Meeting Minutes

*Next Meeting TBA*

*Meeting Chair: Bob Fee New Hampshire Snowmobilers Association Motorized  
 Recreation Representative  
 Time TBA  
 Location TBA*

<b>Attendees</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Title/Affiliation</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Tim Murphy	Southwest Region Planning Commission	
Meade Cadot	Harris Center and Antioch University	Wildlife Management
Rick Carrier	Hinsdale Board of Selectmen	Town of Hinsdale
Ken Desmarais	Administrator, Forest Management Bureau	Division of Forests and Lands
Bob Fee	New Hampshire Snowmobilers Association	Motorized Recreation
Chris Gamache	Bureau of Trails	Public Agency
Emily Hague	Stewardship Manager, Monadnock Conservancy	Monadnock Conservancy
Tim Hill	Forester - Cheshire County	Forestry/Timber Harvesting
Kathy Thatcher	President, Friends of Pisgah	Non-motorized Recreation
Ted Whippee	Town Selectman	Town of Winchester
Mark Zankel	Deputy State Director, The Nature Conservancy	The Nature Conservancy

Minutes recorded by Natalie Gertz-Young, Antioch New England University Project Assistant

Guests -

Don Kent - Administrator, NH Natural Heritage Bureau  
 Fred Ross – Public, Brattleboro Resident

**Meeting Chair:**

Kathy Thatcher President of Friends of Pisgah, Non-Motorized Recreation representative

**Orders of Business**

The August 12, 2008 Meeting Minutes were accepted as is.

The Chairpersons for the next two meetings were chosen

November Meeting: Bob Fee - New Hampshire Snowmobilers Association Motorized Recreation Representative

December Meeting: Mark Zankel - The Nature Conservancy

### **Vision Statement Draft Revision**

Meade Cadot suggested that the southwest corner be changed to southwest quarter or portion, and possibly to tie the statement to a map such as the map from the Harvard Forest Bulletin

Bullet number one was changed to:

*The designation of a natural area(s) that is dedicated to developing old growth and mature ecosystem conditions by permitting natural ecological processes to occur with minimal human intervention and where active management is employed only to protect the areas from human-caused degradation* ( Mark Zankel)

Kathy Thatcher inquired “Is an advisory board incorporated in the vision statement?”

Bob Fee expressed that it (Pisgah) is a park and the main design is for recreational use, therefore he is concerned that too much focus on natural areas would lead to closing down recreational areas.

Don Kent expressed that the statement does not preclude recreation.

Mark Zankel stated “Natural areas and recreational activities both need to be allowed. Specification is in the details”

Ken Desmarais informed the committee that the vision statement can be amended until it reaches the commissioner.

There was a consensus on the statement.

In order to make sure there was enough emphasis on the historical aspect, the word preserved was changed to preserved and protected.

### **Discussion of the third bullet about educational programs**

It was a concern that the statement sounded as if there were classroom times set up and planned educational programs continually in place.

The terms “local experts” and “regularly offered” were removed to make the statement more general

“Enjoy” was changed to “enjoy and understand”

“Will strive over the next 25 years to accomplish” was changed to “Will strive over the next 25 years to:” followed by bullets starting with verbs

Ensure was added to second bullet

Third bullet was changed to start with the word promote

The forest management bullet was indirect and therefore was changed to

- practice sustainable forestry where deemed appropriate that produces forest products
- provides a diversity of wildlife habitats and conditions
- protects documented occurrences of rare species and exemplary natural communities

The vision statement was generally accepted as presented, Ken Desmarais will spruce it up a little to finalize it.

### **Rationalization of why things may be done in Pisgah State Park**

At a forum event it was questioned what may occur in the park because it was purchased with Land and Water Conservation Fund money. Ken Desmarais highlighted documents in DRED’s files and elsewhere which indicate the activities that were originally planned for the park:

**A Memo to Governor and Executive Council dated February 6, 1968 outlines in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> paragraphs which activities are being planned by DRED for the park. DRED had the intent of doing many different things on the property including forestry and wildlife management.**

#### **L&WCF Agreement - Second paragraph**

**States that construction of snowmobile trails and bridges as well as parking areas and access road construction will occur in the park as part of the LWCF agreement. The agreements were very basic agreements made with the federal government**

**Pointed out in the L&WCF manual page chapter 3, page 6 that acquisitions would not be assisted solely for the purpose of a wildlife refuge but that wildlife refuges may be eligible if opened for public recreation.**

**Pg 3-4, bullet 5 states that timber management may be carried out if compatible with and secondary to recreation.**

**Page 3-11 Item f states that LWCF funding may be eligible for wildlife management areas, hunting and fishing areas.**

**Page 7-3 Item 7a(2) and 7c deal with income from timber sales on LWCF properties.**

It was suggested that the following excerpts be drafted into a white paper and included in the management plan document or put directly on the DRED website. Ken Desmarais offered to draft this information into a document.

### **Discussion for agenda for next meeting**

Discuss the Public Recreational Forum feedback  
Discuss finances for the park

### **Public Statements**

**Fred Ross** from Brattleboro Vermont stated that the committee seemed well represented and to be doing a great job

DRAFT MINUTES - NOT YET ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE