

Meeting Summary – Meeting #3
High Peaks Strategic Planning Advisory Group (HPAG)
Main Conference Room, DEC Region 5 Warrensburg
10:00, Thursday, January 2, 2020

Attendees:

1. Joe Pete Wilson, Supervisor, Town of Keene
2. James McKenna, Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism
3. Rocci Acquire, Adirondack Council
4. Pete Nelson, Adirondack Wilderness Advocates
5. Dr. Jill Weiss, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
6. Charlie Wise, The Mountaineer
7. Seth Jones, Adirondack Mountain Club
8. Theresa Cheetham-Palen, Rock and River Guide Company
9. Sandi Allen, Retired DEC Counsel
10. Shaun Gilliland, Chair, Essex County Board of Supervisors
11. Mike Pratt, ORDA President and CEO
12. Pat Barnes, DOT Region 1 Director
13. Chris Morris, OPHRP Statewide Trails Program Planner
14. Rob Davies, DEC Director of Division of Lands and Forests
15. Bob Stegemann, DEC Region 5 Director
16. Karyn Richards, DEC Special Assistant to the Commissioner (staff)
17. David Winchell, DEC Public Participation Specialist (staff)
18. Mary Roy, DEC Strategic Planning/Performance Management Office Director (facilitator)

Remote Participation:

1. Laura DiBetta, DEC, Director of Recreation
2. Peter Frank, DEC, Forest Preserve Bureau Chief

Absent:

Rick Weber, APA Deputy Director

Goals for Managing Public Use in the High Peaks Region

- *Ensure public safety within communities, along roadways, at trailheads, and in interior areas*
- *Protect natural resources and recreation infrastructure*
- *Provide a quality recreation experience*
- *Supporting local economic vitality*
- *Make decisions based on science using the best available data*

Charge for the HPAG

Undertake a collaborative process to provide a strategic framework to address public use in the High Peaks Region of the Adirondack Park which will:

- *Include short, medium and long-term recommendations (strategies, actions and tactics) to achieve the goals of the initiative*
- *Incorporate, expand, and/or modify recommendations made to date*
- *Identify additional data necessary to inform the HPAG recommendations*
- *Identify priorities for the implementation of recommendations*

I. Goals for HPAG Meeting (#3)

- a. Review HPAG Charge and Ground Rules
 - Identify strategies, actions and tactics for achieving goals which can serve as a framework for a Strategic Plan
 - These should be actionable and able to be executed
- b. Review Existing Recommendations Matrix (distributed)
 - High Peaks Unit Management Plan
 - High Peaks Route 73 Stakeholder Meeting Points
 - DEC – 18 Strategies
 - HPAG 12/16/19 Defining Success Ideas
- c. Based on Existing Recommendations Matrix, brainstorm to:
 - Consolidate ideas
 - Identify actions to take place immediately
 - Identify medium and long-term actions

II. INITIAL Ideas for Actions to be Addressed in the Near-Term –HPAG Members brainstormed and developed initial ideas for actions to be addressed in the near term. A summary of initial ideas are contained in the table at the close of the meeting summary.

III. Shared Documents

- a. 1/2/20 Meeting Agenda
- b. Results of 12/16/19 Defining Success Discussion
- c. Compilation of Adirondack High Peaks Recommendations for NYS High Peaks Advisory Group Consideration
- d. Data provided by J. McKenna
- e. NYS High Peaks Advisory Group Target Dates for Strategic Framework Progress

IV. Assignments for Next Meeting

BOARD MEMBER TO PROVIDE INFORMATION	MATERIALS/INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED
Each Advisory Group Member	List of issues/problems of concern to the member (email to M. Roy by 1/17/20)
R. Aguirre	High Peaks-related data (email to Board before 1/21/20 meeting)
P. Nelson and J. Weiss	List of potential data researchers

V. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- a. Data:
 - i. Discuss “data guru” sources

- ii. Hear potential data researcher ideas, including ideas brought to meeting by P. Nelson and J. Weiss, and discuss
 - iii. Incorporate data researcher concept into recommendations language
- b. High Peaks Problems/Issues: Review and discuss compilation of Board member-identified problems
- c. Recommendations for Immediate Action
 - i. Review list compiled from 1/2/20 Board meeting
 - ii. Structure factors to be considered for recommendations to be actionable
 - iii. Determine how to reflect Board priorities
 - iv. Concur upon next steps to submit recommendations by March
- d. Update status of public information tools

II. INITIAL Ideas for Actions to be Addressed in the Near-Term
<u>PLANNING</u>
Dedicated trail Czar at DEC for Forest Preserve/CE (Catskills & ADKs) (Sustainable Trails Coordinator at DEC)
Dedicated Stewardship Coordinator to work with all partners in stewardship (trainings, education, etc.) and Volunteer Coordinator
Refer to UMPs as building blocks
ID what is in strategic vs. comprehensive plan
<u>DATA</u>
Conduct transit study
Employ expert data surveyor (professional "DATA GURU"), to identify type of survey, questions, etc.
ID how many days are: surge days, off season and normal busy season
Compile/compare existing user data – include motivation of users
Gather baseline data on condition of all HP Trails
<u>PARKING</u>
Define parking allowed roadside, including ID'ing immediately needed restrictions, roadside parking accommodations and shuttle drop spaces
Open 1 new pkg hub (e.g., Marcy)
Incorporate town centers into shuttle loops destination areas
Establish shuttle system
<u>INFORMED ACCESS</u>
Pilot an app. that indicates trail conditions and allows self-selection
Utilize variable messaging
Tie to parking levels as an initial gauge; build a real-time app to let people know crowded parking as an indicator of trail crowds
Provide complimentary shuttles
Contact all-trails to indic. ADK info
<u>SUSTAINABLE FACILITIES</u>
Conduct 1-season survey (w/df criteria) of high priority trails
ID top 5 trails needing improvement & stewardship; build characteristic set for trails