

Meeting Summary – Meeting #5
High Peaks Strategic Planning Advisory Group (HPAG)
Main Conference Room,
Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
DEC Region 5 Warrensburg
10:00, Monday February 2, 2020

Attendees:

1. Dr. Jill Weiss, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
2. Chris Morris, OPHRP Statewide Trails Program Planner
3. Joe Pete Wilson, Supervisor, Town of Keene
4. Rocci Acquire, Adirondack Council
5. Pete Nelson, Adirondack Wilderness Advocates
6. Charlie Wise, The Mountaineer
7. Seth Jones, Adirondack Mountain Club
8. Theresa Cheetham-Palen, Rock and River Guide Company
9. Pat Barnes, DOT Region 1 Director
10. Rick Weber, APA Deputy Director
11. Emma Lamy, Sustainability Officer, ORDA
12. Rob Davies, DEC Director of Division of Lands and Forests
13. Bob Stegemann, DEC Region 5 Director
14. Karyn Richards, DEC Special Assistant to the Commissioner (staff)
15. David Winchell, DEC Public Participation Specialist (staff)
16. Laura DiBetta, DEC, Director of Outdoor Recreation
17. Mary Roy, DEC Strategic Planning/Performance Management Office Director (facilitator)

Absent:

1. James McKenna, Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism
2. Shaun Gilliland, Chair, Essex County Board of Supervisors
3. Sandi Allen, Retired DEC Counsel

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*

- A. Goals for HPAG Meeting #5
- A. Discuss HPAG Vision Statement
 - B. Draft Top Short-term Priority Recommendations
- B. Topics Discussed at HPAG Meeting #5
- A. Leave-no-Trace (LNT) “**Recommendations for Managing Recreation-related Impacts in the Adirondack Park and Building a Culture of Wildland Stewardship**” and how these recommendations might be incorporated into HPAG recommendations, both short and long-term
 - B. Draft HPAG Vision Concepts
 - C. Ideas for a Pilot Shuttle Program in 2020 and importance of ensuring shuttles are “green” (Electric, Natural Gas, or Propane Vehicles) as this program moves forward
 - D. Identification of short-term recommendations to advance in March
 - E. Requirements for DEC Temporary Revocable Permits (TRP) when interacting with Forest Preserve visitors to conduct surveys/collect data
 - F. Update on communications – sharing of public comments with HPAG and need to discuss future opportunities to engage the public
- C. Shared Documents
- DEC**
- Meeting Agenda
 - Draft Recommendations Matrix
 - HPAG Members’ Proposed Recommendations Verbatim
 - Draft Vision Concepts
 - DEC TRP Policy and requirements for Research TRP’s
- D. Assignments for Next Meeting
- Review Recommendations Developed on 2/3/20 (All HPAG), to be prepared and emailed to HPAG (M. Roy)
 - Revise Draft Vision (S. Allen, R. Aguirre)
 - Prepare Summary List of Leave-No-Trace (LNT) Recommendations, indicating short and long-term (R. Aguirre, S. Jones)
 - Review Workable Visitor Use Manual (VUM) Components (J. Weiss, K. Richards, M. Roy, R. Weber)
 - Prepare Summary List of Unit Management Plan (UMP) Recommendations (DEC staff)
 - Public Comments “Collector’s Curve” – for a February Meeting (J. Wiess)
- E. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Develop Remaining Immediate Action Recommendations
- Review draft recommendations HPAG prepared 2/3/20
- Discuss how HPAG engages with the public
- Review workable Visitor Use Manual (VUM) components
- Review revised draft Vision statement

F. Potential Future Meeting Topics

- Discuss Ideas for Limiting Visitor Use
- HPAG Role past 6/2020
- “Ephemeral” model - make decision and let go - (Jill to share link – White Mountain Trail Collective)
- Potential Presentation on Visitor App