



Town of Warner

Mink Hills Recreation Study Committee

APPROVED - Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2021, 7:00 PM

No physical location for this meeting; it was conducted via Zoom.

The meeting was opened by Clyde at 7:00pm.

Present: Clyde Carson (Selectmen's Representative), Craig Tufts (Regional Planning Commission), Jason Mutschler, Nancy Martin, Rebecca Courser, Sarah Allen, Andy Duncan, Peter Bates, Dave Minton, Bill Dragon

Review of Minutes of December 14, 2020.

Rebecca noted page 3: "she found a jeep tour..." should be "Rebecca found a jeep tour..."

Next line down "he trail" should be "the trail."

After the objectives, the paragraph that starts with "Dave." Please change last line to "so much for the information gathering."

The minutes of December 14, 2020 were accepted as amended.

Goals and Objectives Update – Nancy Martin

Nancy provided an updated Mink Hills Work Plan, Draft 5, that Clyde shared on his screen. A copy of the plan is included with these minutes.

Andy Duncan and Sarah Allen had provided some information to Nancy, which she tried to include into the work plan. There are some goals added to the plan that weren't there before, and they reorganized the objectives into three groups: A, B, and C. Each objective had a listing of resources and goals, along with recommended individuals or groups to do the work. Another column gives a deadline for which each item should be accomplished.

Goal A: Gather Information

- Objective 1: Identify the current recreational uses in the Minks
- Objective 2: Identify natural environmental and cultural resources in the Minks

Sarah Allen said she works for a natural resource consulting firm. Protected species is a topic that comes up often in her line of work and they need to address it in this area. There are online tools that will help them find out where these species are. From there, they can work with landowners to protect the areas.

With regards to interactive maps, Craig said he can make a story map which is something you can scroll through like an article. Narration is done throughout and those using the map can click on links and explore on the map on their computer or smart phone.

Goal B: Offer Analysis and Education

- Objective 3: Evaluate the Mink Hills Recreational Needs and Opportunities

Rebecca said she Googled the Mink Hills and found that there was a jeep tour available. It talked about some of the foundations, the route they went, and she noticed that their historical information wasn't accurate. She thinks they should try to keep in mind what is going on and being promoted in the Minks. Andy suggested that this kind of tour should be added to the current activity happening in the Minks.

There was discussion of conducting a new Mink Hills Landowner survey. The last one was done in 2018.

- Objective 4: Educate and Increase Awareness in Warner about Recreation in the Minks

Andy offered to contact the Trails Committee in Concord to get trail advice. Craig said he is currently helping the Town of Concord writing their trails section of their master plan. He suggested an individual named Ron Klemarczyk, a consulting forester, who Andy should contact directly. Sarah suggested contacting someone from the State with regards to the management of parks and trails systems.

Clyde thought maybe recommendations can be made on how towns can protect their Class VI roads. As a former legislator, he said he would look into these possibilities.

Goal C: Develop a Mink Hills Recreational Plan

- Objective 5: Develop a plan of allowed uses on Class VI roads and trails on town property in the Minks

Andy said that a lot of the recreation they are discussing has to do with Class VI roads, but much does not. Greenway trails, for instance, are off of these kinds of roads. If the focus is limited to Class VI roads, it will limit the kinds of recommendations they come up with.

Nancy said a public hearing would need to be held for public input once the draft plan is ready.

Nancy noted that Sarah had suggested that some things were missing from their plan. These included implementation of the plan, enforcement, repair/maintenance goals for the town, and collaboration with other Mink Hills communities.

Dave Minton asked if any of the other neighboring communities had started a plan like what they are working on. Nancy said Bradford has been monitoring their Class VI roads regularly. She would follow up with Bradford to see what the details of their program were.

Rebecca believes that coming up with a draft by September may be a little aggressive. Nancy said she could adjust the dates to spread them out. She agrees with Rebecca and thinks perhaps this is a two-year project. She offered that this is a work in progress.

Nancy noted that the author of the "Trails for People and Wildlife" map was interested in coming to talk to the town about his expertise. They need to prepare for this talk first, but he is interested. Rebecca suggested inviting Mr. Spoerl to come talk about "The Good Road to Travel." Clyde said he would work on making this contact.

Andy said the UNH Granite mapping site has a lot of existing information that would be useful for them. Perhaps Craig could help take them through Granite and/or help them get some maps to review. Sarah could help interpret some of the information as well. Craig suggested organizing all the maps they have and including a narrative for each. Sarah thought this would be helpful to get a handle on this project. Craig said that this may be a good project for his intern. Sarah said that it could be as simple as a table of contents with references to each map.

Other Action Items:

Nancy said she would make a list of speakers for their committee and internal individuals, as well as a list of speakers for the general education of the public.

Craig would create a way to organize the maps and items in the Dropbox.

Andy would work on some draft questions to ask the Concord and State of NH individuals regarding trails.

The next meeting would be Monday, February 8, 2021 at 7:00pm. It was noted that meetings would be held once a month.

With no other business, Clyde closed the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Heath, Recording Secretary

Town of Warner