

**New England National Scenic Trail
Trail Use Committee- CT
November 9, 2009
Meeting Notes**

Introductions: Paul Mei (Guilford), Clare Cain (CFPA), Fred Mastelle (Durham), Jim Caulfield (Boy Scouts), not in attendance- Boone & Ciano

NST & Trail Stewardship Council Update

• **Subcommittees:**

-The following are the committees created by the TSC: Executive, Advocacy & Outreach, Community Connections, Trail Mntc & Mngmt, & Trail Use

• **MA Trail Stewardship meeting:**

-Hosted by AMC colleagues in Amherst. Very well-attended. Similar subcommittees were defined

-Parallel work, sharing of ideas between committees

• **NPS updates**

-Logo & brochure- NPS in-house graphic designer

-Small grants program to possibly fund initial projects this coming year

-CCS funding (1:1 match)

-Currently working on details of a CFPA/NPS Coop Agreement

-Standardizing Signage: MA DCR guidelines offer a great foundation for moving ahead w/ sign standards for the trail

Trail Use Committee Work

• **Review Blueprint for Management: *Trail Use* section**

-also reviewed CFPA policy on trail use which specifies that the Blue-Blazed Hiking trail system, including the MMM trail, is primarily maintained and used for hiking. The Trail may be used for other uses if the landowner allows.

• **Current Trail Impacts: Motorized & Non-Motorized**

-Where are the most impacted sections of trail? Need to connect w/ trail managers to identify these areas.

-Horses and bikes do use sections of the Trail—where are these sections and how do we delineate them from sections that are inappropriate for uses other than hiking?

• **Other Trail Impacts**

-nothing noted

• **Trail Policies**

-Work w/ DEP to clearly define what uses are allowed on each trail segment on state land.

-What signage can be posted to address allowable trail use.

-Install kiosks so trail users are cognizant of what uses are allowed and trail etiquette is explained.

• **Priorities**

1. Meet w/ DEP staff to discuss allowable trail use, signage and trailhead verbage that communicates appropriate trail use to the users.

2. Meet w/ trail managers to identify major motorized impact areas

3. List large property owners and their allowed use

4. Disperse info on who should be contacted if illegal trail use has occurred- website, etc.

Other

• **Who else should join us?**

-Trail managers, neighbors of the Trail, rep from ea. large corporate landowner

- **Misc**

- Recommend having quarterly meeting w/ other subcommittee chairs

- How do we involve the Scouts in trail use issues?

Next Meeting: Dec. 14 @ 5:30pm at CFPA

**New England National Scenic Trail
Trail Use Committee
January 27, 2010
Meeting Minutes**

In attendance: Mastelle, Cain, Ciano, Mei, Boone, Caulfield

Conversation focused on priority areas that need to be identified on the NENST; specifically allowed uses, motorized impacted areas & sensitive areas.

To do:

- Boone will get in touch w/ AMC hike leaders
- Cain will work on mapping what we know
- Cain will get trail survey finalized and out to CFPA Trail Managers
- Ciano will send Cain CHC Trail Survey for consideration/ incorporation
- Cain will evaluate CLEAR or UCONN website may have GIS overlays of invasives & endangered species for the state

Other Discussion:

- Fred Mastelle nominated as Committee Chair
- Committee would like to invite NEMBA rep to next Trail Use meeting
- We need to get to know our trail neighbors.
- We need to target specific areas to sign.

Next meeting date: Wednesday March 3rd @ 5:30pm