

PTAB Meeting Minutes 5/21/19

Meeting Commenced 5:31pm

Present: Lindy Ellis, Jason Smith, Andrea Audi, Jimmy Cunningham, Dwight Stevenson, Steve Langdon, Tyler Merriam, Ashley Milne, Jamie Konkoski, Marijke Ormel

Absent: None

Guest: Josh Wilson

1) Public Comment

- None

2) Guest Speaker: Josh Wilson BETA

- Josh presented overview of new Saranac Lake Wild Forest Unit Management Plan (UMP).
- Plan is to start in between Saranac Lake and Lake Placid for trail development, more specifically between Ray Book and Old Military Rd; they will start at the edges and work toward the middle.
- BETA has approval to build 6-7 miles of new mountain bikes trails in this area.
- Josh shared a map of existing trails and proposed new routes that will be signed off by the DEC forester.
- Trail crew will work for 10 weeks this season, some at Dewey and some building these new trails.
- BETA plans to use existing trail and new trail to create a more intentional trail network.
- Trail networks should be relatively easy based on terrain and elevation.
- New trail network could be greatly enhanced by a rail trail, but wouldn't be reliant on it should said trail not come to fruition.
- When whole network is complete, including section around Scarface, it should be a premier mountain bike route in the Northeast.
- PTAB can write a letter of support for this mountain bike trail network in order for BETA to strengthen their SMART Growth application, a grant that would fund trail work for the next three years.
- BETA would also appreciate any volunteer support to help build trails this summer/fall and well as beyond, such as from Paul Smith's College and North Country Community College students.
- BETA could also use additional volunteer support for the Jackrabbit Trail near the Paul Smith's Area (Easy St. to White Pine Camp area and beyond).
- There is money from occupancy tax and other legislative funds to help support BETA mountain bike initiatives, could be proposed to Kelly Brunette at ROOST who oversees some occupancy tax money.
- Thought brought up about amount of development and minimizing user conflict between hunters and mountain bikers, much of which was discussed at public hearings before Saranac Lake Wild Forest UMP was approved.
- Discussion of size and type of mountain bike trails and their applicable uses.

3) Approve April Meeting Minutes

- Moved by Tyler, Seconded by Steve, unanimous approval.

4) Old Business

A. Action Plan for 2019

- a. Discussion of how to create goals and prioritize objectives (see action plan for who is responsible for what actions)
 - Ongoing maintenance issues may already be address, such as trash removal and other routine maintenance.
 - Broken items and safety issues are more applicable, such as broken fences and such.
 - People selected some goals in which they were interested and set some deadlines to complete.
 - Discussion about plan for Lake Colby challenges and solutions, decision to create a workgroup in September to come up with action items and a further plan: **begin with a beach schedule/fact sheet about Lake Colby.**
 - **Lindy and Tyler will create a meeting time with Jamie to discuss wayfinding signs at boat launch and Mt. Baker.**
 - Explanation of bike and pedestrian maps/process, no set deadline so tabled for now pending additional information.
 - Discussion of Smitty Day, who will be involved, and how that will play out.
 - **Jimmy to follow up with Angela Brice to finalize what students can do for event and what will be the final date.** Brainstorming includes orientation program, major-specific programming (e.g. business, sports and events management, wilderness recreation leadership, etc.).
 - **Andrea and Tyler will meet to do some research about current Pisgah operations/programming and reach back out to PTAB in the future.**
 - Community Bike Ride would need to be planned for next year, start now for planning/research phase. One “harvest moon” ride or something similar in September/October could be possible for this year.
 - **Each person on PTAB will send 3 photos to Jamie/Cassandra for publication on the Village website.**
 - Safe Routes to School has been put up, Jamie will send reminders to take down.
 - Discussion of how public can be more involved in Parks Master Plan, and how information will be presented (in parks and electronically/internet wise).

B. Discuss desire/need for subcommittees

- a. See notes above in section A.

C. Smart Growth Grant - letters of support, project title

- a. **Jamie and Lindy to help draft this and send out via email.**

D. Bike racks

- a. Discussed and decided upon in external meeting during early May.

5) New Business

- Smitty Day
 - Discussed during Action Plan discussion in Old Business.
- Park Maintenance Checklist
 - Discussed during Action Plan discussion in Old Business.
- Doodle poll to be created by Jamie in order to determine summer meeting schedule

Meeting Adjourned 7:17pm

- Jimmy moved, Lindy seconded, unanimous approval.