

Meeting Summary – Meeting #4
High Peaks Strategic Planning Advisory Group (HPAG)
Main Conference Room, DEC Region 5 Warrensburg
10:00, Tuesday January 21, 2020

Attendees:

1. Joe Pete Wilson, Supervisor, Town of Keene
2. Rocci Acquire, Adirondack Council
3. Pete Nelson, Adirondack Wilderness Advocates
4. Charlie Wise, The Mountaineer
5. Seth Jones, Adirondack Mountain Club
6. Theresa Cheetham-Palen, Rock and River Guide Company
7. Pat Barnes, DOT Region 1 Director
8. Rob Davies, DEC Director of Division of Lands and Forests
9. Bob Stegemann, DEC Region 5 Director
10. Karyn Richards, DEC Special Assistant to the Commissioner (staff)
11. David Winchell, DEC Public Participation Specialist (staff)
12. Mary Roy, DEC Strategic Planning/Performance Management Office Director (facilitator)

Remote Participation:

1. Dr. Jill Weiss, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
2. Sandi Allen, Retired DEC Counsel
3. Laura DiBetta, DEC, Director of Recreation
4. Peter Frank, DEC, Forest Preserve Bureau Chief

Absent:

1. James McKenna, Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism
2. Shaun Gilliland, Chair, Essex County Board of Supervisors
3. Mike Pratt, ORDA President and CEO
4. Chris Morris, OPHRP Statewide Trails Program Planner
5. 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 #4
 - A. Agree on whether the HPAG Vision Statement is Needed
 - B. Compile HPAG list of High Peaks issue

- II. Topics Discussed at HPAG Meeting #4
 - A. Update on discussions with potential contractors for development of an App that provides basic information on parking, trailheads, alternative trails and shuttle schedules
 - B. Need to focus HPAG meetings on work needed to accomplish HPAG charge
 - C. Briefing on Governor Cuomo's State of the State message points regarding High Peaks area
 - D. Proposal for data collection and coordination (Power Point presented by P. Nelson and J. Weiss)
 - E. Status of DEC Web Page posting HPAG Summaries and asking for public input
 - F. Additions to issues compilation; prioritized compilation via Dot exercise; agreed DEC would compile list and, prior to 2/3/20 meeting, provide to HPAG with request to draft initial recommendation ideas

- III. Shared Documents

DEC

 - Meeting Agenda
 - Priority List of Immediate Action Ideas
 - HPAG Member-Identified Initial List of Problems/Issues
 - Proposed Primary Steps Leading to Transmitting HPAG Immediate Action Recommendations
 - Proposed Criteria Matrix for Assessing Actionable HPAG Immediate Action Recommendations

Adirondack Council

 - List of Materials for Scheduled Outreach

- IV. Assignments for Next Meeting
 - A. Review DEC Compilation of Board Issues
 - B. Draft Top Priority Recommendations Regarding these Issues

- V. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
 - A. Discuss Leave-no-Trace "*Recommendations for Managing Recreation-related Impact in the Adirondack Park and Building a Culture of Wildlands Stewardship*"

- B. Update on DEC Temporary Revocable Permits requirements for research related to collecting use information
- C. Discuss HPAG Vision