Pisgah State Park Steering Committee  
March 25, 2008 3:30 - 6:30  
Meeting Minutes  
*Please Note - Next Meeting - May 20, 3:30 - 6:30 pm  
Location TBA*

**Meeting Chair:** Ken Desmarais, Administrator, Forest Management Bureau

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Affiliation</th>
<th>Representing</th>
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<tr>
<td>Phil Bryce</td>
<td>Director, Division of Forests and Lands</td>
<td>Division of Forest and Lands</td>
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<td>Timothy Butterworth</td>
<td>State Representative</td>
<td>Chesterfield, Winchester and Hinsdale</td>
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<td>Meade Cadot</td>
<td>Harris Center and Antioch University</td>
<td>Wildlife Management</td>
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<td>Ken Desmarais</td>
<td>Administrator, Forest Management Bureau</td>
<td>Division of Forests and Lands</td>
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<td>Chris Gamache</td>
<td>Bureau of Trails</td>
<td>Public Agency</td>
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<td>Tim Hill</td>
<td>Forester - Cheshire County</td>
<td>Forestry/Timber Harvesting</td>
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<td>Molly Kelley</td>
<td>State Senator</td>
<td>State Senate</td>
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<td>Catherine Owen Koning</td>
<td>Faculty - Franklin Pierce University</td>
<td>Pisgah State Park Technical Team</td>
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<td>Tim Murphy</td>
<td>Southwest Regional Planning Commission</td>
<td>Regional Planning</td>
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<td>Bob Fee</td>
<td>New Hampshire Snowmobilers Association</td>
<td>Motorized Recreation</td>
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<td>Bob Smith</td>
<td>Friends of Pisgah</td>
<td>Friends of Pisgah</td>
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<td>John Stetser</td>
<td>Friends of Pisgah</td>
<td>Town of Winchester</td>
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<td>Rick Carrier</td>
<td>Hinsdale Board of Selectmen and Chesterfield Town Administrator</td>
<td>Town of Hinsdale</td>
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<td>Kathy Thatcher</td>
<td>President, Friends of Pisgah</td>
<td>Non-motorized Recreation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Wessels</td>
<td>Faculty - Antioch University</td>
<td>General Public</td>
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Minutes recorded by Cynthia Nichols, Pisgah Technical Team Coordinator

**Information Requested:**
DRED's Land Use Zoning information -
  - Definitions
  - Activities that can occur in the various zones
Overheads of important discussion documents for public observers
Meeting Summary

Ken Desmarais brought meeting to order

Meeting minutes from the February 19, 2008 meeting were discussed and accepted with one amendment. Meeting minutes will be posted on the Division of Forest and Lands website at www.nhdfl.org

Pisgah Technical Team (PTT) Presentation
Catherine Owen Koning gave a PowerPoint presentation about the history and activities of the PTT.

Catherine asked the Steering Committee to consider these questions:
Types of information that should be collected and sources for it
Examples of good management plans
Priorities for Information gathering
The best ways to gather Public Input

The PTT had been planning on conducting a park-wide natural forest communities inventory to gather detailed ecological information to use in formulating their recommendations. Funding hasn't been secured, and a recent application for funding was not accepted. The Inventory is currently being shelved and efforts are underway to gather as much information as possible from existing data.

Public Forums
It was agreed that public input is important to this process. The PTT will therefore continue to conduct the Forums. Efforts will be made to increase public notification about the Forums.

The PTT has held two forums so far; on November 13th, 2007 and March 13, 2008.

DFL sponsored a Timber Walk on Feb. 16, 2008
DFL now has a DVD available that shows this winter's Timber Harvest

The PTT is also putting together a Public Opinions Survey that will be administered at Pisgah State Park (PSP) trailheads and public forums.

It was suggested that public forum topics could be garnered by looking at PTT's list of Management Plan topics. A forum on the Recreational Uses was suggested.
Ken Desmarais showed a DVD about this winter's Timber Harvest

Members noted that:
- this looked like a carefully planned and executed harvest
- not all harvests are this carefully done, and it's important to make sure that any future harvests be done in a similarly careful manner

Discussion: Developing a Pisgah State Park Management Plan Vision Statement

Land-Use Zoning was reviewed:
(Tab 2 in the notebook)
"To maximize public use and benefit, each parcel of forestland is zoned according to its highest or best uses."

- It was pointed out that Zoning is an important tool for management, and a way to determine what uses will be considered in the Park.
- Once a section has a zoning designation, the zoning goals are the overarching guide to any activities in the area.
- Information on activities allowed in each zone will be distributed.

The Technical Team is considering Zoning recommendations as part of their work.

The Declaration of Purpose for State Reservations was reviewed.

Discussion specific to Crafting a Vision Statement:

- It might be good to use the 1987 vision statement as a guide (Tab 4 in the Notebook)
- It's important to make a concise and short statement that's unique to Pisgah State Park.
- Think about the features that are unique to Pisgah State Park.

Tom Wessels noted three key features unique to Pisgah:
1 - Size
2 - On the western side there are many acres that were never open to agricultural activity
3 - It's a very undeveloped park

Tom said that he would like to see these attributes maintained and further noted that the core area with old growth forest is worth protection. Also, while not necessarily precluding logging, it's important to maintain the real wilderness feel of the park.

The group identified more key items (in no particular order) such as:
- Allowing multiple uses while maintaining the Park integrity
- Maintain Wilderness
- Size
- Old Growth Forest
- Undeveloped
- Harvard Forest Plot
- (Museum of 1938 Hurricane)
- Temporal value of Research
- Geographical Location
- Education
Including the Park Development Process
Connectivity for
Wildlife Populations
Recreation
Watersheds
Climate Mitigation
Geology
Recreation
Historical/Cultural elements

Surrounding Lands
When considering management/zoning areas, it will be important to think about abutting properties and uses so that they fit together well
For example, it would be good to find out more about the:
- Monadnock Conservancy’s California Brook project.
- The East West Greenway from Chesterfield to Wantastiquet that started about 1989

Harvard Forest
Historical studies by Harvard Forest in the Harvard Forest tract within PSP laid some of the foundation for current forest ecology principles. The Harvard Forest tract is a section of old growth forest that was studied both before and after the 1938 hurricane. Fallen trees were left without any salvage to study natural disturbance recovery.

It was suggested that interpretive signing in place at some of the old growth locations would be interesting for public education.

The Committee approved inviting David Foster to present. David is the Director at the Harvard Forest Long Term Ecological Research Site.

**The Committee will continue this discussion by e-mail and draft a Vision Statement for consideration at the next meeting. **

Public Comments
Laurel Powell -
Feels that we have a moral obligation to preserve and expose the logging and farming Communities that were there - it's important that we do this because when the State acquired the land - these folks lost their histories.

Phil Bryce noted that specific details and information about this would be appreciated.

It was requested that announcements be placed in The Brattleboro Reformer and the Greenfield Recorder