

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



Passenger Tramway Safety Board



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Mark Petrozzi, Gilford (Chairman)
August 19, 2020 - June 20, 2024
Insurance Industry

Kris Blomback, Henniker
April 1, 2020- June 20, 2022
Ski Industry

Steve Howell, Lincoln
August 19, 2020 - June 20, 2025
Ski Industry

Stanley Judge, Shelburne
September 28, 1999 - June 20, 2023
Public Member

NEW HAMPSHIRE PASSENGER TRAMWAY SAFETY BOARD MEETING MINUTES – 03/28/2022

Announcement by the Chair:

Chairman Mark Petrozzi was not present for this meeting and in his absence Kris Blomback opened the meeting, introduced himself and welcomed the group. He advised the board members that we have a quorum. This meeting is being recorded.

Invited members included (*absentees noted in italics*):

- **Mark Petrozzi**
- **Stanley Judge**
- **Kris Blomback**
- **Steve Howell**

Other Attendees: Members from the Department of Safety – Briggs Lockwood, Nancy Ettelson, Scot Woolfenden, Catherine Goff and Marta Modigliani. Members from the industry signing in today is : Justin Preisendorfer, US Forest Service, Erica Dickerman, US Forest Service, Deirdre Riley, Attitash, Jon Hunt, Whaleback, Ashvin Ghurburrun, MND, Mike Nellis, State of VT, Jack Savasta, State of VT, Brian Norton, Loon Mtn, Jay Scambio, Loon Mtn, Ryan Brenenstuhl, Doppelmayer, Bobby Farrell, Stevens Engineering, JoAnne Andrews-Stevens, Stevens Engineering

Order of Business:

At 8:00am a tour of the Kanc 8 was offered.

Board Member Packets Included: Agenda for the March 28, 2022 meeting, draft minutes from the January 7, 2022 meeting, copies of updated tramway rules (for review/adoption).

- I. Called to order at 9:19am.
- II. Reading and Approval of Minutes
 - a. Previous Meeting Date: 1-7-2022

On a Motion: Stanly Judge motioned to accept the minutes of January 7, 2022. Steve Howell 2nd the motion. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

III. Old Business:

- a. **Administrative Rules** – **change in agenda - discussion to be held at the end of today’s meeting
- b. **Waterville Valley** 6 passenger detachable chairlift: Additional submittals

Presented by: Justin Frizenburger, Ashvin Ghurburrun, and Ross Stevens

A discussion took place: there were questions and comments from the Board and from the Safety Staff. Specifically questions - on the geo technical report (applicant advised that this information will be included in a future submittal). As a group, we discussed the project submission being looked at today. An issue with plans was brought up and the applicant was advised that – required specifications – as outlined in current administrative rules –requires that the information submitted be in the English language and the measurements be in feet and inches. This application is not in compliance as is.

On a Motion: Kris Blomback motioned to approve the construction for the pouring of the concrete on the drive terminal, return terminal and tower one. Steve Howell 2nd the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

IV. New Business:

- a. **Attitash Ski Area:** Application for construction of a new fixed grip quad chairlift to replace both borvig double’s (TRM 23 & 24)

Presenter by: Deirdre Riley and Brandon Swartz

For the record – this submission includes a design certification.

A discussion took place: the applicant provided maps to show where the lift is aligned; presenter further advised that they have started construction on this project. They are following a similar path of the old profile. This is a full installation for the fixed grip quad that is 2,710 feet long by 640 feet of vertical. Applicant is looking for a conditional approval at this time.

On a Motion: Stanley Judge motioned to approve this project for concrete. Steve Howell 2nd the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

- b. **Loon Mountain Ski Area:** Application for construction of the refurbished Kanc Quad (TRM 27) to replace the 7 Brothers lift (TRM 29)

Presented by Steve Howell

Board Member, Steve Howell has recused himself from voting on the Loon Mountain application.

With this, the issue of a quorum to review and approve this application was considered and cleared by the Department of Safety's legal counsel, Marta Modigliani. For this specific situation, it will be allowed for only two Board members to vote on this application for the Loon Mountain request.

A discussion took place: Stanley Judge spoke to the applicant and asked specific questions – the Board was advised of the specific work done on the refurbishment of the Kanc Quad (TRM 3). This work, among other things, included a complete electrical upgrade. One member of the audience had a question on the refurbishment and inspection of the towers – information was provided. This is a 27 year old lift. Chief Lockwood asked the applicant for a complete set of drawings on this project.

On a Motion: Stanley Judge motioned to approve the project for concrete only. Kris Blomback 2nd the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

For the record – Steve Howell has rejoined the Board.

- c. **Cranmore Ski Area:** Application for modification of the SkiMobile Express (TRM 3) - Complete electrical upgrade.

Presented by Rick Oaks

Also present is a representative from Doppelmayr in the audience to answer any question on this application.

A discussion on this application took place and the Board asked for clarification on a few items. Rick talked about their aging skimobile Express (TRM3).

For the record – the certification of the design is present in the application.

On a Motion: Steve Howell motioned to approve the Cranmore application, Stanley Judge 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carries.

- d. **Highlands Mountain Bike Park:** Application for construction of a new conveyer.

Ross Stevens (Stevens Engineering) and Kevin Belanger presented to the Board.

This is a high-speed conveyer (appx. 500 feet) for use by mountain bikers.

Discussion and questions included the operation of the conveyer and dates for use identified in the application of the conveyer – specifically – the application references incorrectly - 12/1 – April. The speed on this conveyer can be controlled. This seems to be a first of its kind for the Board. Individuals could ride their bikes onto the conveyer and continue to ride up the conveyer providing there is no one on the conveyer that is stationary. At the time of unloading – the rider and bike will coast off the conveyer. This is a 4 foot wide belt to allow for someone to stand beside their bikes. The company being used has experience in high-speed conveyors for more than 10 years.

The applicant is asking for an exception from the ANSI regulations to allow the conveyer to operate at 236 feet per minute. Applicant advised that some information currently in this application - will be updated to correct some information brought to the applicants attention from the Board.

On a Motion: Steve Howell motioned to accept and approve the application before the Board today providing that the applicant change their submittal letter, modify, and re-send it to the Board forthwith. The Board agreed to allow the applicant to modify the letter at this meeting. Stanley Judge 2nd the motion. All in favor. Motion Carried.

e. Discussion: **Whaleback Ski Area** T-Bar unload.

Presenting was John Hunt.

Discussions took place on riders unloading from the Whaleback T-bar. This particular lift adheres to 2011 standards – Briggs Lockwood read from the 1999 rules that identified the rules in place at the time the lift was installed. The issue - is that when a rider unloads from the T-bar they need to proceed in a direction of the T-bars that are heading back down the mountain. There is signage at the top of the lift indicating that rider should be aware (use caution if needed) of the situation overhead. Efforts at Whaleback include continuously grading the unload area, keeping it well maintained to minimize any potential injury where a rider could potentially be struck by the T-bar or feel the need to duck to avoid any potential injury while exiting the lift.

This issue is just informational and no vote is required for this discussion.

Old Business:

The Chair gave Marta Modigliani the floor. Marta introduced herself to the Board. Marta is Legal Counsel for the Department of Safety, Office of the Commissioner.

The Administrative rules final proposal was distributed – annotated version – Attorney provided details of the agreed upon changes on the Chapter PAS 200 document, and forms to the Board. She identified each change recommended for the rules. The Board reviewed the document. Rules need to be acted on every 10 years. Currently the old rules are in effect until this Board votes to adopt the rules handed out today.

On a Motion: Kris Blombak motioned to formerly adopt the administrative rules as presented and edited, and reviewed on today's date. Steve Howell 2nd the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The next Board meeting will be on April 27th at 9:00am. Location to be determined.

On a Motion: Steve Howell motioned to adjourn the meeting. Stanly Judge 2nd the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned 11:45am

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