

NH Strategic and Capital Improvement Plan
Public Meeting
Concord, NH
7/15/2008

Attendees:

OHRV, Mushers, Retired State Parks employee, Quarter Horse group, NH Parks Advisory Group members, Student Conservation Corp Coordinator, Sunapee-Dartmouth Greenway Committee member, Trails Committee member, Blackwater Trail Riders (horses), SPNF Policy Advisor

Summary of Observations and Comments Made by Attendees:

1. Very little mention of historic resources, natural areas, state beaches or waysides.
2. Primary focus was on trail use, parking & multiple use issues.
3. They wanted to make it clear that many special groups contribute significantly to trail maintenance and have for years.
4. Expressed a concern that legacy trails (like road corridors within parks) have been closed /gated and current maintenance standards don't meet the group's needs.
5. Limited horse riding opportunities due to trail construction standards and minimal parking availability for horse trailers.
6. Lots of passion for trails.
7. The groups understand their responsibility to participate in this process and on the ground management if they want their concerns met.
8. Expressed strong concern for how parks are managed... 'manage like a business' ...we did not get clarification or details.
9. Expressed strong concern for the consequences of any potential PUBLIC to Private options. Especially concerned about the loss of control, identity, and legacy if privatize.
10. Identified the need for protecting public lands and encroachment issues.
11. Concerned about loss of trail access in southern part of the state due to lands being developed. Trail miles are contracting not growing.
12. Identified the need for greenways – trails connecting park lands.
13. Concern expressed for the impact of parks on local communities when it comes to emergency response, police, and noise.
14. Local community concern that they aren't engaged in planning or decision process when state park decisions are made that may affect their community.
15. Other than the Daniel Webster site and trail conditions, no other mention about specific facility conditions.
16. Very little mention about park personnel presence or attitudes – the single comment made was positive.
17. Some groups (horses) felt like they were held to a higher standard of behavior and requirements when they are issued a special use permit for a large event they sponsor.

18. Concern that state funding level of the parks is well below the viability threshold and that user fees are not the way to fund the parks.
19. Group felt some kind of broad base tax that is used to help fund the parks is important and spreads the responsibility to all.
20. NH is the lowest funded park system nationally.
21. Identified a marketing need to address our desire to have a viable tourism economy – could be like England where walking/hiking trails connect across the state – What is the revenue potential for NH as a trail state?
22. Problem with user fees and registrations to finance the parks – weather dependent and short seasons. Not long enough and only seasonal collections. If weather not good, registrations low.
23. Questioned the value of adding infrastructure when we can't/aren't maintaining the existing adequately.
24. Some groups have a long history of using parks and working with the trails bureau to maintain trails but are currently frustrated with existing conditions to the point they are not using certain parks any more.
25. A very strong and long discussion about trail safety, trail marking, and visibility issues. Kept coming back to these issues because trails are multiple use and conflicts do exist.
26. In general, only 2 parks were mentioned much at this meeting, Bear Brook and Pawtuckaway. Does this indicate the users stay local, within their region?
27. Most of the discussion was respectful, if not passionate. The message was clear that people care about and use the parks but they are frustrated about limited access for certain activities (horses/ATVs).
28. Did request minor enhancement at Bear Brook – addition of electrical outlet – to accommodate the special use event that occurs annually and is the second largest trail ride in the country
29. Thought it would be great to incorporate historic sites and interpretive signage in the parks. Horse riders would like to have trails that include this.
30. The user groups understand the requirement for respectful use of multiple use trails and acknowledge that there can be individuals that create problems but the groups in general work together to avoid conflict.
31. Competition between groups has expanded as other uses occur on the trails, like mountain biking, ski joring, etc.
32. Thought there should be a way to sign events at parks so other users are aware that certain trails will be in use. Wondered about getting information on the state's web page to alert potential users.
33. Need to provide adequate parking for car top (canoe/kayak) vs cars/trucks with trailers. Car top don't want to take the trailer spaces but they need a place to park too.
34. With the need for \$7million budget but only collect \$6 million in use fees, the division invests where the people are visiting. What's the right amount to spend annually for CIP? NH only bonds \$80 million for the entire state for CIP. Be brave when building CIP...identify the need for RESPONSIBLE stewardship for

- the capital investment we have already. Envision the funding you need 10 years out.
35. Majority of the users of the state parks are not trail users...but those at the meeting were.
 36. Deterioration of park facilities is occurring. Not reasonable to let the park system deteriorate. Do we dispose of parks – can't keep doing a poor job.
 37. Our state parks are our legacy, our future. Need to maintain places for recreation and staying connected to nature.
 38. Give recognition to volunteers. A lot is done with their help. They should be recognized and their worth should be translated into dollars to understand their worth.

NH Strategic and Capital Investment Plans
Public Meeting – Lancaster, NH
July 17, 2008

Attendees:

North Country ATV/OHRV, Trails, Ex-Mayor City of Berlin, Ex Director NH Snowmobile Assoc (Belmont), Coos County Snowmobile Club (Nash Stream), Pittsburgh Ridge Runners ATV Club, Director Chamber of Commerce – Pittsburg, Cannon Mtn Advisory Commission – Franconia, State Rep – Franconia

Issues:

1. From the Ex Mayor of Berlin – **Parks are diverse**. The vision and mission needs to reflect this. There should not be one size fits all. State Parks are **under capitalized**. Sunapee is designed to fit skiers. Emerging needs. Believes Okemo has improved the ski area. Thinks we should privatize Jericho Mtn Park. The state doesn't have and never will have enough money to meet customer needs. It is a **problem with the way the legislation works**. Believes we should stop saving hikers using snowmobile and ATV registrations.
2. Jericho is for ATV riding. Can't afford to travel far to ride because of the economy. Believe the proposed campground in Jericho should be small and develop as needed not start with 500 campsites.
3. Hunting/fishing/nature/ATV/snowmobiling – don't waste resources on other user groups that aren't paying fees. Hikers put little in, but drain state resources. Should **create recreation opportunities that enhance local economy** – ATV and snowmobile bring a lot of money into the region. North Country was hurt by the big snows down south this past winter...people played in the south. Hikers leave little here – it's a day trip and they bring their own granola bars. ATV/snowmobilers are staying and recreating for a few days. They are pumping money into the economy.
4. Should Jericho have a campground? There is a big potential there, but the state of NH is an obstacle. ATV group designed the trails but the state has too many hurdles to go through... they are frustrated with environmental concerns the state offices have to deal with (des, parks, etc). ATV on private lands doesn't have to comply with the same rules that they do on state lands.
5. Starved out the foresters and farmers, lost the mills, the North Country economy is hurting and the state is partially responsible. Not doing enough to attract out of state users.
6. They want to make Jericho work.
7. Pittsburg – **listen to the general local public**, not just other special groups from the south. This could be the place (CT Lakes) for ATV. Potentially 100's miles of trail on roads. We have the ability to utilize these roads but feel like the state is listening to a small group and restricting ATV access.

8. Need to diversify uses on state lands which will boost the economy – tourism and recreation need to work closely and market the opportunity.
9. Several times the Hatfield-McCoy ATV Park in W VA was mentioned. It is a place with 4 areas and user fees/passes. It is the number 1 ATV park in the country. Between Strafford, Pittsburg, Jericho, and ? could have the same opportunity. There needs to be advertising, tourism for a larger audience to bring in the ATV's from beyond NH.
10. The ATV and Snowmobile clubs work as sister clubs – share resources, work together and get more needs met.
11. This is farm country, we respect horses on ATV trails.
12. Need to let the legislature know how important recreation use is in the state of NH – too much turnover and constant re-education in the legislature with such short terms. The problem is Concord and their lack of attention to the needs of other parts of the state.
13. State Parks are awesome.
14. State Parks are **under capitalized**. Not one size fits all. Needs are individual. **Signage (or lack thereof) is a universal issue**. This gentleman personally added 600 signs in Nash Stream and 200 in Jericho. Directional/Info signs for the ATV/snowmobile users are his focus. Standard signage required. The groups make them and put them up and take them down themselves. Has a disagreement with the quality and type of signs the state puts up... creates a lot of waste on the trails because state signs don't last... they are a waste of money.
15. There is a problem when dual use ATV/snowmobile because they are in use during different seasons. Made 80 wooden signs for snowmobilers. It has taken 3 years. Lots of volunteers needed to put up and take down annually. The groups themselves are dealing with signage. State should make the investment in the sign making tool and let the clubs use it for building proper signs.
16. Put dollars into good wooden sign posts. They cost \$12 each and are worth it because they last. The signs benefit many groups.
17. **SIGNAGE** critical. Temporary signs the state provides aren't good enough.
18. The trails bureau spends \$50,000 a year because they use temporary signs. Temp vs permanent – the loss ratio is bad. Lose about 50% of the temporary signs. It is a good investment to build permanent, long lasting signs.
19. Private clubs would step up and help if the state pays for the material.
20. There is a large volunteer contingency to help with on the ground maintenance.
21. The trails bureau collects data: **135,000 hours of volunteer time** from the snowmobile community. There are **118 snowmobile clubs**. There are 20-25 ATV clubs.
22. **Half the club members come up from out of state**. They guarantee a portion of their market because out of state must register their snowmobile in NH.
23. Draw a lot of VT people here. Flood of VT ATV people. There are 3,000 members in the ATV clubs and half of them are from VT. Reciprocity is an issue because NH users must join a VT association and/or club if NH goes to ride in VT but NH doesn't require club membership of the VT user.
24. 47,000 snowmobile club members.

25. Big issue – **BATHROOMS**. Snowmobile clubs rent a port a potty for riders. Coleman State Park did the right job. There is a first class, heated bathroom. It is a huge plus for that park and is the ‘model’.
26. NH trails system is first class but bathroom facilities don’t exist.
27. Ask clubs – If you could put a bathroom anywhere, where would you put it.. They could advise you. Bathrooms need to be clean, open and heated.
28. Nash Stream State Forest needs facilities too. Easily 2,000-3,000 snowmobile riders on an average Saturday.
29. Berlin used to allow snowmobiles legal sidewalk access to towns for fuel, eats and bathrooms.
30. **Diversity** of parks is key. Tourism is important to the area. One couple owns cabins in Pittsburg – they want to see better advertisement of the North Country by the Tourism Bureau. Need to get into the CT, MA, and NY markets. Help people know they can make a vacation of it. Need to market the region for the value it offers... which is the unique ATV/snowmobile opportunities.
31. **\$2.1 billion revenue brought in by the snowmobile community.**
32. Average age of the ATV user is in their 50’s.
33. Meals, room tax are important revenue and should help finance the parks.
34. **Link the parks.** Connectivity would make the experience better.
35. The clubs have rules which members must abide; there is organization to the membership and this generally results in better behavior of individuals.
36. Clubs can apply for grants from the trails bureau and then get their members to volunteer their labor for maintenance and construction projects.
37. Coos County has a population of 30,000 and is the size of RI. There are not a lot of resources here.. the playground requires money from the outside.
38. Registrations -> Funds to trails bureau -> Grants to clubs -> maintenance on trails
39. State Parks are self funded. Should room/meals tax go to State Parks? State needs to put money into Parks and build facilities.
40. State Rep Franconia – Move money from Hampton Beach to the North Country. Hampton doesn’t need \$10 million more.
41. Where will the money come from? Privatization?
42. As an example, at **Jericho Mtn**, it took 3 years to get 40 miles of trails! (and there are opportunities for many more miles) There were already 20 miles there. Need **someone to put money into the area** like Okemo/Sunapee. This is a good market for an investor. We know what the customer wants. Those that control recreation have a different agenda than the local customer and special groups.
43. **Cannon** and re-development of Mittersill – **Should NOT privatize**. Don’t want to have a real estate development like the issue at Sunapee. Constituents do not support privatization and real estate development. They want the area saved from commercialization. This area is spectacular and unique. Want it to be a legacy for our children. How do we help the businesses and make the market work. Can you be an advocate for investment without commercialization.
44. All state parks are uniquely different. Like the ATV park needs to be the best in the state. Can’t use a cookie cutter approach nor broad brush.

45. **Historic sites** and the bureau – Programming? **Can't privatize** because you can't make money. The sites **don't have enough to keep people busy** or engaged to make it worth the cost you'd have to charge.
46. Its important to make money and the state doesn't know how to make money. Part of the issue with money going to Hampton – it's a 3 month season unlike the 4 season opportunities in the north which aren't getting the funding.
47. No money comes from the trails bureau. The clubs fund it through registrations.
48. Issue with AMC and its 'free' ride. Think they ought to be paying something.
49. **Hampton Beach brings in 1/5** of all the state park revenues.
50. Can the self funding system survive?
51. Lake Francis and Coleman would provide very easy ATV access. Why can't we use the area?
52. Pittsburg campground is very busy with ATV's.
53. Need to be more organized and to **advocate for rural areas**.
54. Appears to be a north-south line when working with the legislature. ATV/snowmobile bring in over \$4million into NH economy.
55. It's a problem when Hampton gets piles of money while other parks fall apart or don't have basic facilities.
56. **Privatize Coleman, Jericho** – put in cabins and establish a user fee. If Jericho is privatized it would be to provide better facilities but not privatize the trails. There would be money to be made in the accommodations – tents, trailers, cabins. Let private develop the accommodations, facilities, parking but not touch the trails. Trails bureau should continue to handle the trails. Currently about a 5:1 of out of state users to NH residents using Jericho.
57. **Legacy** – pigeon holes what a place is... the function of a state park can/should change as emerging issues/uses present themselves.
58. Should the **general fund finance the state parks – WOULDN'T work**. There is not a big enough advocate in Concord. Should remain self financing or privatize. The fuel tax money from ohrv's already goes to the trails bureau.
59. If co-mingled in the general fund the parks will get nothing. Legislatures are mostly from the southern part of the state.
60. **Weed out the under performers**. Can't keep everything and maintain it all terribly. Spend where you attract.
61. Should we relinquish the historic sites? What about private foundations with volunteers. What's their mission. Do they have a value?
62. Could **non profit or private** organization better manage some sites like Weeks or Milan? 'Won't be the people's park if they have to pay.' Can it be run by private organization but stay a state park. Is there an economy of scale issue before considering privatizing/non profit option for managing?
63. What are the alternatives to raise funds or manage parks?
64. Better **advertising** is necessary. Snowmobiling and ATV are new uses and generate a lot of money for the local economy.
65. Private landowners – allow use of ATV – Why not work with Lyme Timber and State of NH to open up the 1000's of miles of trails to ATV/snowmobile use.
66. Look for a shared experience in the state parks.

67. Need to **streamline the process for evaluating allowed use** in areas. It takes too much time.
68. Tourism needs to promote the parks.
69. A feasibility study of the North Country might determine needs to the legislature so they can understand how revenue is generated and how to get return on an investment.
70. Snack shops on trails?...public/private opportunity.
71. Branding for the North Country – tourism needs to help.
72. There is a North Country Council – Coos Economic Action Plan and a Strategic Economic Initiative for us to look at.

NH Strategic and Capital Investment Plans
Public Meeting – Peterborough, NH
July 22, 2008

Attendees (4):

President & Vice-President NH Snowmobile Assoc; Member Board of Directors NH Musers; Active musher (and camper/xskier)

Issues (bracketed notes are team comments):

1. Bathroom facilities very important, particularly **heated bathrooms** for snowmobilers
2. Strong feeling that mushers and snowmobilers work together/look out for one another. Extends to use of trails.
3. Access to ATV trails important for off-season training for mushers
4. **Adequate parking** is important. Some areas that are popular for snowmobiling, such as Pillsbury SP, have insufficient space, particularly since snowmobilers need room for their trailers. Available parking needs to keep up with level of use.
5. Parking lots should be better maintained. Having painted lines would help organize where to park – allow more vehicles. [assumes all lots should be paved – not appropriate in many instances/conflicts with “natural” landscape of park]
6. Need a system to alert people of conflicting uses – example cited was snowmobiles vs mushers. NB: Clubs are already doing some education on this – mushers got state grant to post signs.
7. Noticed definite improvement in trail conditions and like new lodge at Sunapee – all due to new private-partnership with Okemo. Downside, however, is that now Sunapee is too crowded on weekends to be enjoyable; over-taxed facility. Noted that lodge gets lots of rental use.
8. Sunapee beach is very well run: lots of room, even on a crowded weekend; helpful and friendly staff
9. Greenfield SP looks different now: “tired,” “rutted road.” Definite impression that the state lacked funds to maintain it. [This comment was offered by someone who likes things “rough,” but was taken aback by this 1st impression]
10. In response to ideas for assistance in paying for facilities, snowmobilers strongly opposed a fee. Said they already do own grooming and they pay for what they use. In addition, they rarely use bathrooms contradicts earlier statement].
11. Earmark some of rooms & meals tax for parks. Would spread cost out among ALL users.
12. Private-public partnerships (PPP) work well for ski areas – it’s an industry with a product—but not for recreational areas. An RV campground could be a candidate for a PPP.
13. State does best owning/preserving/managing/making accessible its land. Not good at providing special services, such as skiing. Lacks ability to infuse needed capital into the system. Private sector knows what the customer wants and can provide it.

14. Downside of PPP is that it makes the park more commercial. [one attendee who frequently uses public campgrounds across the country noted that those that have PPP have lost the essence of being a state park – no longer as natural.
15. When a PPP is chosen, there's a sacrifice to be made
16. **State views the \$1m shortfall as a loss. Why not view it as a cost to run the park system?** For \$1m you get a value – need to define that value. [this cost still doesn't address all the deferred maintenance]
17. Not practical to increase entry fee monitoring – too costly
18. **Preserving the land is the most important thing the state does. A private party may not be as concerned with that, as it has to watch the bottom line financially**
19. **Most NH citizens are not aware that the NH park system is self-funded.** Or that it is the only one in US like that. Important to publicize this as means to either change it or get contributions. Great cause for school children.
20. None of the parks should be de-accessioned. If they've already reached the status of being a park, that means something special. Someone once had the foresight to save it, so we now have a responsibility to retain and protect it, especially if given to the state for that specific purpose.
21. A number of state parks are not well advertised. However, some couldn't handle increased visitors.
22. NH residents need to understand (1) parks are self-funded and (2) what the actual costs of running the parks is. Also when there are private enterprises intertwined with the park operation (ex. Mt. Washington auto road and Cog RR)
23. Facilities within the parks should not be closed, unless it has no affect on park's ability to function
24. Among the attendees, none had ever heard of most of the historic sites. Only Weeks was recognized as a state historic site.
25. Thought historic sites might be good candidates for PPP. Town would have a vested interest in it. [actual situation is the opposite, given high cost of running; also cyclical nature of town politics could endanger them]
26. Historic sites are important; they're "our history"
27. Future of historic sites needs to be handled as with our sites – what was initial intent in making it a state park? Need to honor that.
28. Bear Brook Snowmobile Museum is open year-round: capitalize on that asset
29. Core value to retain: Keep parks accessible and available to existing and emerging uses
30. Some parks are too restrictive – need to balance uses. Best to designate zones or specific trails within a park, than making entire park designated for one use
31. People need to understand value of going to a park for the day. Compare to going to the movies or an amusement park. Market the value of parks a la Pricelist!
32. Group was comfortable with notion of closing a park for an occasional day for a specific event (ex: car rally, triathlon) if it was well-publicized, very occasional and brought in lots of funds)
33. Uncomfortable with having a corporate sponsor banner permanently in place. Would prefer a plaque on a facade, credit on the parks web page (with a link to

- the sponsor), and/or byline on a brochure. Plus have company mention its sponsorship in its own materials
34. People go to parks to get away from commercial business environment – a corporate banner would ruin that.
 35. Any potential corporate partner needs to recognize the intrinsic value of the park and be proud to be associated with it
 36. State parks advertising needs to be dramatically increased. Does a TV ad such as “Stay at Home in NH” reference parks?
 37. Value of state parks: relatively undeveloped; easy to access

NH Strategic and Capital Investment Plans
Public Meeting – Portsmouth, NH
July 24, 2008

Public Attendees (approx. 21):

State reps (5); Park Advisory Committee (2); Hampton Beach users; equestrians; Chair, Hampton Beach Area Commission; Dover Open Lands Committee, plus others who use parks for kayaking, hiking, xskiing, birding

Issues (bracketed notes are team comments):

1. Want to retain natural beauty of parks (spoken by someone who has visited ½ of the state parks)
2. Pawtuckaway lacks parking for horse trailers
3. Horse riders often have to go out of state to ride, due to lack of parking at NH state parks
4. Equestrians need a well-drained field or gravel lot for parking – nothing fancier. Best to separate horse parking from cars for safety reasons, ie., put horses in a far corner
5. The peace and quiet of parks is very important
6. Pleased that the state historic sites have “broken off,” since they have a different focus than recreational parks
7. Safe trails for bicycling are needed
8. Every state park is a gem – as a group, they offer immense diversity
9. Critical to preserve the environment – concerned that a private-public partnership (PPP) might change that
10. Our state parks reflect on us as a state – critical to preserve what we have
11. Don’t let NH become like CT
12. Be cautious about PPP, since the private sector fails as often as the public. Better to focus on sufficient funding
13. Parking at Hampton Beach is a major issue
14. NH needs sustainable growth, rather than no growth
15. Development patterns have bisected horse trails that once existed. We lack 5-20 mile loops, such as Bear Brook offers
16. Bear Brook and Pawtuckaway are great for hiking
17. Some of the state park camping facilities offer “peaceful isolation” not found elsewhere – not jammed together
18. Seacoast chapter of Audubon offers well-attended bird trips to Odiorne and Pawtuckaway
19. Odiorne offers terrific variety within the park
20. Off hours, even Hampton Beach is quiet and lovely – and it’s free at that time! Many walkers, horse riders and skiers use it early in the morning
21. People need to have a “spiritual” place to connect with nature and be awed by one’s surroundings

22. The Bear Brook 4-H camp provides a “unique” experience, due to the low-key, rustic nature of the buildings and surroundings. Speaker was hopeful that experience will continue into the future.
23. Rhododendron state park is especially lovely – a visit made there 60 years ago is still remembered!
24. Etiquette signs erected by National Parks(?) about multi-use of trails are well-designed and effective. Might be a prototype for state parks
25. Would use the park system more, if more was known about them. My knowledge is limited to what is nearby. It would be helpful if the park maps could offer a brief description of the offerings at each park.
26. As I grow older, I frequently bring my guests to the historic sites. “I love NH and want to show off our heritage.” Guests are thrilled with their visits to the sites.
27. Open space/nature offers the option of being alone or sharing it with others, even with strangers. A park can bring people together in the most unexpected way and cause them to share observations and experiences.
28. Hampton Beach is too crowded, and people abuse it (drinking, building fires, bringing dogs, using profanity cited). Mutilating some of the natural resources, such as starfish, clams, etc. also mentioned – depriving future generations.
29. Misuse varies depending on the type of park and can occur due to simple ignorance of what’s appropriate behavior.
30. Need for funding for trash collection and recycling at Hampton Beach. Carry-in/carry-out system is not working.
31. Use positive messages to change this behavior. When “Our park is clean because you care” sign was installed in the rest rooms, it dramatically affected what went into the trash cans
32. Parents need to educate children about how to take care of the environment. Or the park needs to issue clear directives. Use visual cues, positive message, catchy graphics/photos. Provide information on how much trash is generated if people don’t cooperate.
33. [Three differing opinions on how to address trash followed]:
 - a. Monitoring or setting fines do not work
 - b. Try not picking it up, so people would see the direct consequences of their poor behavior
 - c. Educate people to picking up after oneself is the right thing to do. Educate children as a means to get to the adults.
34. Should the parks have a “load limit” to avoid over-use?
35. ATVs and their noise are very distracting to others
36. [Judith Spang, state rep]: Her constituents want snowmobiles and ATVs out of the parks and who decided the state policy that all uses should be allowed. Motorized uses bother everyone else. How did ATV and snowmobile users get to the point that they convinced the state to allow them full access? Recognizes a distinction between allowing motorized vehicles in northern parks, where the economy relies on such use, but finds them less appropriate in the southern parks. Also, ATV users now have a dedicated park (Jericho), the 2nd largest park in the system. Just

- because people pay to register an ATV or snowmobile, doesn't mean they can buy their way into full access. Drew a parallel to car registration.
37. ATV and snowmobile users should pay the parks entry fees
 38. Fumes and hikers, etc. don't co-mingle. There should be certain days designated for ATVs and snowmobiles
 39. Could ATVs and snowmobiles be isolated into certain parks, as California does?
 40. DRED has an obligation to be democratic – to provide for the “little guy” and not just the “loud, organized group.”
 41. Many trash problems are caused by lack of facilities. People want to do the right thing – need to assist them in executing that.
 42. When the budget at DRED is trimmed, manpower is trimmed at Hampton Beach. If more fees were extracted from ATVs and snowmobiles, it could go into the park system and improve all of them
 43. As we undergo strategic planning, we need to understand the core values of each state park. Economic decisions need to be informed by the values of the park, rather than the value of the park determined by economic issues.
 44. Need to close the back entrances of parks to avoid gate jumpers
 45. Trails should be funded from sources other than ATVs and snowmobiles, as their voices are now too powerful
 46. Coordinate with bed & breakfast and inns that are near trails, to ensure trail connectivity – use English system as a model
 47. Trail bureau shouldn't be beholden to one constituency group – actually a conflict of interest
 48. State should be funding its parks, since they are directly tied to tourism, a key part of the state's economy
 49. PPP are appropriate, on a selected basis, with stringent standards. Could help parks in trouble. Private sector is capable of doing things sensitively. (Recent bridge replacement in Hampton cited as an example)
 50. Hampton Beach is a flagship park. Needs staffing and capital improvements plan, as the investment will help all parks with the subsequent increase in revenue.
 51. Friends Groups need to be established and/or encouraged throughout the system – they're the parks' best friends. [Johanna clarified that there are already many and they are indeed much valued]
 52. DRED should work with equestrian group(s), a growing and enthusiastic group willing to pay for park usage
 53. Why credit friends groups and their projects on the website for each park?
 54. In essence, friends groups already function as PPP.
 55. Friends groups need a “community organizer” to help them wade through state bureaucracy. (Example cited when Fort Stark Brigade, after raising \$12,000 to renovate Fort Stark, was charged \$100 special permit fee by DRED. Ben explained the fee request was a mistake and apologized for the mishap.)
 56. Get corporate partners to help with the historic sites. Be “shameless” in hitting them up.
 57. PPP can get out of hand. If any such partnerships are made, MOA needs to be very tight.

58. Cannon Mt. should not be privatized. Its unique, old-time mountain flavor (“can smell the wood smoke”) should not be changed. With the new managerial plan and manager in place, let’s give it a try to turn a profit.
59. Campground reservation system is terrible – example of a PPP gone wrong.
60. Some of the leases with partners, such as at Odiorne, need to be reviewed. Should Science Center members get free membership to the park? [Same situation at Weeks]
61. Odiorne has a boat launch that charges a fee, but there is no staff to collect it
62. Promote which parks are on bird trail, as it will increase visitation.
63. Improve the maps of state parks to show all the amenities offered at a park.
64. Do an integrated mapping system to show how one could bike/walk between parks.
65. Get park information into AAA offices outside New Hampshire (all other states in New England are represented)
66. Need to partner with the community. Team up with garden clubs, rotary, etc. Celebrate the work of volunteers.
67. Create plaques for non-extant sites as a means to impart history
68. Ideas to generate additional revenue:
 - d. Introduce license plates for the parks, perhaps four different ones to represent the four geographic areas. Use terrific graphics that depict the state park(s).
 - e. Rent parks out for weddings, events, etc. Do not undercharge: Odiorne SP charges \$750 for a wedding, while the Seacoast Science Center charges \$5,000.
 - f. Establish an “Adopt a Park” program and enlist volunteers to assist with maintenance
 - g. Sell products at parks
 - h. Encourage earmarked donations for a specific program at a specific park
 - i. Using the IRS model, introduce a provision on the NH Dividends tax return for a check-off box to donate \$1 toward the parks

Received in writing from Tom Pearson (Rye) immediate following the meeting:

1. Adopt a section of the park: individuals, businesses and community groups would adopt a section of the park which they would maintain.
2. Revenue raising: (a) Weddings and other outside events – A section of the southern part of the park would be landscaped for tents for weddings and other events; (b) License plates – A license plate with a coastal picture would be authorized for OPSP