

Mount Sunapee Advisory Committee Meeting

June 21, 2005

Mount Sunapee Resort Spruce Lodge at Mount Sunapee State Park

Committee members present:

Commissioner Sean O’Kane, Committee Chairman

Tara Bamford, Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

Melanie Bell-Harrington, Town of Goshen

Lionel Chute, Division of Forests and Lands designee

Jack Diemar, New London-Lake Sunapee Region Chamber of Commerce

Tim Drew, Department of Environmental Services designee

Nancy Marashio, Society for the Protection of NH Forests

Gordon Marshall, Lake Sunapee Protective Association

Gail Wolek, Division of Parks and Recreation designee

Dan Wolf, Town of Newbury

Mount Sunapee Resort present: Jay Gamble, Vice President

DRED staff present: Torene Tango-Lowy, Committee clerk

Welcome and Introductions Commissioner O’Kane called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Committee members introduced themselves.

Minutes Ms. Marashio motioned to accept the minutes of October 26, 2004. Mr. Wolf seconded. Motion carries.

Old Business Commissioner O’Kane informed members that he granted limited approval of the Resort’s 2005-2009 Master Development/Environmental Management Plan by letter to Mr. Mueller, dated May 6, 2005. Approval was given for the improvements approved as part of the 2000-2004 MDP that are not yet implemented and additional proposed improvements within the current lease boundary. The West Bowl expansion proposal has been recommended and forwarded to Governor Lynch. Ms. Marashio asked what role this committee plays when the committee had not suggested that the lease expansion proposal be forwarded to the Governor. Commissioner O’Kane said the committee serves in an advisory role to him concerning lease agreement issues and that he had taken the committee’s comments into consideration.

New Business Commissioner O’Kane asked Mr. Gamble to present the Resort’s 2005 Annual Operation Plan. Mr. Gamble said that 2005 work will be for maintenance. The work is estimated at \$600,000 and will include painting, telephone system upgrades and vehicles. The Resort proposes a 40 ft x 40 ft addition to the vehicle maintenance shop to accommodate new fuel-efficient snow grooming machines the use wider tracks. Copies of the proposed building addition plans were provided.

Ms. Bell-Harrington asked about the financial constraints that delay approved projects, as mentioned in Section M. Mr. Gamble said permitting caused some delays and increased costs and, in the case of the new Cataract lift, the Resort is considering buying new versus a used lift.

Mr. Chute asked about plans for night skiing. Mr. Gamble said night skiing is not proposed for implementation this year. Mr. Wolf asked if there was a time table to complete projects. Mr. Gamble said there was no definite time table; some projects impact the timing of others, such as the Clippership Chair costs (\$900K) impacting the timing and type of Cataract lift installation (est. \$300K).

Mr. Drew provided Commissioner O’Kane with written comments of DES review of the AOP. DES suggests that the Resort add DES to its list of resource agencies that could respond to selected types of emergencies (Section G). Ms. Marashio asked about skier visits. Mr. Gamble said that increased skier visits were from increased mid-week visits; the beach parking lot was not needed during the weekends. Mr. Gamble explained how skier visits are compiled: based on facility usage, passes, comp and ticket sales. There were no other comments or questions.

Commissioner O’Kane stated that he is required to provide the Resort his written response to the AOP by June 30th. The Commissioner will accept any other comments from the committee via phone call or email in the next couple of days.

Mount Sunapee Resort Update Mr. Gamble reports that the past winter was the third best operating season for the Resort. Skier visits were 257,000 despite a delayed opening due to weather. March was an outstanding month. The Resort has made approx. \$450,000 in payments to DRED this past year.

Commissioner O’Kane asked if there was any other business. There was none.

Next Meeting Date The next meeting will be at the call of the Chairman.

Mr. Marshall motioned to adjourn. Mr. Drew seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Minutes submitted by T. Tango-Lowy.