

**Mount Sunapee Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**April 11, 2006**  
**Mount Sunapee Resort Spruce Lodge at Mount Sunapee State Park**

**Committee members present:**

Commissioner George Bald, 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  
Ingrid Braulini for Jack Diemar, New London-Lake Sunapee Region Chamber of Commerce  
Nancy Marashio, Society for the Protection of NH Forests  
Gordon Marshall, Lake Sunapee Protective Association  
Allison McLean, Division of Parks and Recreation  
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 Bald called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Committee members introduced themselves.

**Minutes** Mr. Wolf motioned to accept the minutes of June 21, 2005 as written. Ms. Marashio seconded. Motion carries.

**Old Business** There was no old business.

**New Business** Commissioner Bald asked Mr. Gamble to present Mount Sunapee Resort's Annual Operating Plan (AOP) for 2006. Mr. Gamble provided the requisite copies as required by the Lease Operating Agreement. Copies are available for public review at the Newbury and Goshen Libraries and at the Division of Parks and Recreation Concord office. Mr. Gamble provided an overview of the AOP. Skier visits for the 2005-2006 season was down to 232,000 from 257,000 in last ski season, due to winter conditions that made it difficult to maintain a high quality skiing surface.

Mount Sunapee Resort proposes capital spending for 2006 estimated at \$625,000, mostly for maintenance of existing facilities, equipment and inventories. Projects planned are listed on page 28 of the AOP, including Elliot Slope snowmaking equipment, Summit Lodge building maintenance, and Spruce Lodge renovations. Mount Sunapee Resort proposes to convert the Demo Center in Spruce Lodge to a meeting space for group use.

The AOP makes reference to the New England Handicapped Association's (NEHSA) plans to expand its existing building. NEHSA will enclose the existing deck for a 14-ft x 40-ft area. Construction plans are being developed.

Commissioner Bald asked Committee members if they had any questions. There were none. He then requested members to review the AOP and provide any comments by the next meeting.

**Mount Sunapee Resort Update** Mr. Gamble briefed the Committee on the 2005-2006 ski season. As mentioned previously, skier visits were 230,000.

Ms. Marashio thanked Mount Sunapee Resort for hosting the Town of Newbury for Town Meeting.

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

**Public Comment** Commissioner Bald opened the floor to public comment.

*Gerry Gold, SRKG* – Improved signage is needed for snowshoe / hikers at the Summit Trail.

*Jerry Karr, Sunapee* – As a season pass holder, the ski trails were in excellent condition.

*Al B?, Newbury* – What of NEHSA's plans for relocation? Mr. Gamble said NEHSA still plans to relocate the building, but the current building location will serve them in the 3-5 year interim. The addition is being constructed through NEHSA volunteers and donations.

*Catherine Bushueff, Sunapee* – Requests that the park entrance signage identifies the park as a State Park. Also, meetings held in Spruce Lodge (2<sup>nd</sup> floor) is not easily accessible except by freight elevator. Commissioner Bald will look into both issues. Ms. Bushueff asked about a Natural Heritage and cultural resource inventory of the State Park outside the leasehold. Mr. Chute said a Natural Heritage inventory of areas outside the already inventoried leasehold has been suggested, but no further discussions made. The Bureau typically investigates areas under development. Within the leasehold, old growth characteristics were found in areas of the East Bowl and potential for such characteristics in the West Bowl, suggesting the potential for wider-spread old growth areas. Mr. Gamble said that the Natural Heritage Bureau study from 1999 states that there is little or no evidence of old growth characteristics in the west side polygons.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

*Minutes submitted by T. Tango-Lowy.*