

**Massachusetts OHV Advisory Committee Meeting # 57 Notes**  
**Tuesday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025**  
**Venue: Purgatory Chasm State Reservation**  
**198 Purgatory Rd, Sutton, MA**

**In Attendance: (\* Indicates OHVAC member or sitting in for a member)**

Scott Morrill (EoEEA / MA OHV Coordinator)

\*Thomas Galvin - MA Law Enforcement representative

\*Raffi Peterson - NETRA representative

Jeff Miller – SAM Executive Director

\*Captain Erik Tynan – Law Enforcement / MEP representative

\*Matt Westfield – OHV users' representative

\*Michael Toomey – Friends Group representative

\*Randy Toth – SAM representative

\*Michael White – Mohawk 4x4 / OHV user representative (Online call-in)

Chip Jones - SAM

Jon Oulette – Southcoast Motorangers

\*Max Rosbold-Gabbard – DPH Massachusetts

Brigid Beauchamp – DCR

Major Kevin Clayton – MEP

\*James Caffrey – Trustees and non-profit representative

10:05 Meeting is called to order.

Introductions are followed by Scott Morrill providing an EEA update.

Mr. Morrill updated the committee related to ongoing work on two OHV grants that may be offered by the state, soon. He stated that the grants are an effort to empower the OHV community, assist in the clubs' efforts in their trail stewardship activities, and one of the grants would hopefully lessen the financial burden for clubs when applying for RTP grants. Mr. Morrill also applauded the OHV trail community and the contributions they have made to the state's trail system and tourism. Mr. Morrill was thrilled to see the OHV community being involved in the state's trail expo and how they are as part of the state's trail community as any other user group and when everyone works together great things can come from it.

At 10:20 AM, Raffi Peterson of the New England Trail Riders Association then provided the NETRA update. Mr. Peterson stated that the NETRA board of directors had just voted in favor of keeping Mr. Peterson as the NETRA representative for the OHV Advisory Committee. He stated that there have been very large turnouts for NETRA events so far this year and one hare scramble in Connecticut getting 746 attendees. Mr. Peterson also noted that while outperforming volunteer work he noticed many riders without registration. Major Clayton of MEP inquired about any steps being taken by

Raffi's club or NETRA on having folks register. Mr. Peterson stated that registration numbers within NETRA are high and that he believes most of the riders he came across unregistered are not NETRA members. Mr. Peterson also stated that outreach involved signage at parks and word of mouth. Mr. Peterson stated that without more places to ride, riders were disenfranchised. Mr. Peterson reiterated that most people want to do things the right way, but he hears from some riders that they want more options before spending money on registration. Mr. Peterson also stated that there are times on nice weekends where there will be 100 trucks along Bell Rock Rd and in the OHV parking area for Freetown / Fall River State Forest as people are looking for places to ride. James Caffrey mentioned that it sounded like there could be a capacity problem if there was a potential for overcrowding on trails. Mr. Peterson noted that with so many users there is a chance that just a couple of people may get lost and end up where they aren't supposed to be. It doesn't mean that they are intentionally riding "illegally", they just got a bit lost. He highlighted the need to pay attention to wayfinding signs and the need to make sure they are all up and accurate.

At 10:40 AM, Randy Toth of the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts provided the SAM update. Mr. Toth began his update by saying that despite having some bad snow years recently, a big storm helped this year's snow totals and provided Massachusetts with some snowmobiling opportunities this past winter. Mr. Toth also stated that the snow grooming app mostly works despite a few GPS irregularities and issues still be worked out. A hybrid model of recording grooming might be the best solution. This past year clubs groomed an average of 4.3 weeks. Mr. Toth stated that trail access from the Savoy / Windsor trail system to Mt Greylock was still a major concern as there was only one connection left, and it was not guaranteed. Mr. Toth stated that SAM was looking for a more stable and permanent solution. Mr. Toth also mentioned that the SAM board had voted to refresh the website. Mr. Toth then spoke about the 2024 Sled Expo which was reported to have been another success. He stated that though numbers were slightly down, the vendors were happy. Mr. Toth then mentioned the latest DCR RMP open meeting for Pittsfield State Forest. Mr. Toth stated that he noticed multiple participants from SAM, as well as from the OHV community at large. Mr. Toth said that SAM, in cooperation with Mass Environmental Police, created a three-day trail pass for people who have a Massachusetts OHV registration and wanted to visit Massachusetts to ride for a weekend. SAM had their annual meeting at the Chesterfield 4 seasons club house where Senator Paul Mark was in attendance. During the annual meeting it was voted to extend the term of Executive Director Jeff Miller. SAM clubs were also fairly active in submissions for the RTP grant round. One of the submissions is for payment to grooming hours. SAM is also continuing to advocate for a three-day reciprocal weekend in hopes of bringing people into Massachusetts. SAM also participated in the International Snowmobile Conference held in Prince Edward Island. At the conference there were concerns raised regarding possible tariffs and the potential cost of machines and parts in the United States. Mr. Toth also noted that SAM was working on gps'ing their entire trail catalog as well as all of the culverts, bridges, and similar trail structures

in an effort to continue improving upon their trail stewardship. Mr. Toth added that SAM was working with DCR in recovering and grooming trails in the Wendell, Warwick State Forest area. Mr. Toth noted that SAM was hoping to see the resurgence of the state's legislative trail caucus as it appears to have dissolved. Mr. Toth stated that SAM wants to continue being active with the state's trail community. The hope is to demonstrate to people that most snowmobilers want to follow rules and etiquette, and cite that only a very small number of users don't abide by the rules, the same as every other user group.

Captain Tynan of the Massachusetts Environmental Police presented the next update. During the update, the captain stated that since March there have been 16 reported accidents with no fatalities. Captain Tynan stated that they were thin on coverage and the best way to bring attention to issues was to report them to the MEP contact number. MEP is also adjusting to new legislation- the Hanson-Milone Boating Safety Act- as well as their responsibilities in being present at state pools during the summer. Major Clayton said that it was one of his priorities in meeting with MA Office of Outdoor Recreation in outreach related to regulations and safety initiatives. The Major also mentioned that it might be productive to have an outdoor recreation day at the statehouse.

Brigid Beauchamp, the West Region OHV Supervisor for DCR, gave the DCR OHV update. Ms. Beauchamp stated that due to staff changeover- her included- as well as low staffing numbers, they were doing their best in catching up with trail maintenance and needs. Ms. Beauchamp also stated that they currently had only one ATV and one side by side in working condition and they were doing their best to get to the high number of trail needs each park has, though they were making significant progress. Mr. Morrill commented on the importance of SAM communicating with DCR on their trail system, especially during this critical time when DCR is cataloging their trails.

#### Open Floor

Mr. Morrill brought forth the discussion from previous meetings about the position of chairperson. At 12:19PM Michael White moved to nominate Matt Westfield for consideration. Chief Galvin seconded this. At 12:22 PM Randy Toth nominated Raffi Peterson for consideration. James Caffrey seconded this.

At 12:25 PM Michael White moved to vote for the new chair at the following OHV Advisory Committee meeting in September. Chief Galvin seconded this.

James Caffrey asked if some of the OHV funds might be used in assisting the chair with office supplies or other small expenses related to the position. Mr. Morrill stated that he would have to inquire about it and would probably be granted on an issue-by-issue basis. Mr. Morrill also stated that he would be there to assist in any of the duties of the chair in helping with alleviating some of the demands related to the position.

At 12:35 PM Chief Galvin moved to adjourn meeting #57. Matt Westfield seconded this.