

OHV Advisory Committee Meeting # 24  
April 11, 2017

Meeting at 10:04  
Introductions

**EEA Updates by Bob O'Connor**

- OHV Coordinator Position –

The job position is approved, and the posting will be the MA Job website by next week. EEA will send the position to the OHV Committee to spread the word around. The goal is to hire someone by the end of June. The person will be stationed at a DCR Springfield office.

There was a discussion on the need to ensure that the hired coordinator focuses on OHV-related tasks.

- Budget - **Emmanuel Owusu**

Emmanuel Owusu presented on FY 17 & 18 spending plan for the OHV Funds, which is designed to achieve 25% spending on activities related to creating new OHV riding opportunities in the state. Bob noted the decrease in the revenue for FY 16 which may be due to the low levels of snow in the 2016 winter.

- Randy requested a detailed account and annual report to the legislature. Bob suggested that
  - Bob suggested developing a report for the committee
- The coordinator will be expected to focus on OHV

**DCR – Scott Morris**

The permit system at the Fall River Trails is discounted and staff time is dedicated to OHV trail work.

- October Mountain

Staff is putting two more bridges and developing on 32-mile track on one park.

There is a new parking lot at October Mountain trails, and timber harvest occurred at October Mountain.

- Pittsfield
  - There is a need to reclassify the stream, and one parking lot which is insufficient

Suggestion was made to change the CMR for the 4\*4s vehicles.

- There is a room to accommodate the side by sides (64 inches) as this accommodation could be an opportunity to create family oriented recreational activities.
- Work is ongoing to resign the visitors' kiosk.
- Plan to purchase six trail counters to count riders on the trails.

- Too many parks are understaffed; there is the need to get rangers out to increase response times.

Suggestion to share the GIS- tracked trails to increase compliance for riders to stay on legal trails.

### **MEP – Captain Merri Walker**

Refer to the MEP report for the information on MEP's reports on operations and accidents.

- Planning to replace about 25 OATV vehicles
- The online registration is up online and functional for online renewals about a month ago. There remain some glitches to fix on the system.
- Planning to have meeting at 501, one meeting with the secretary office on the exemption on the 90B. Two officers were at the opening of the 501 International on April 22, 2017
- The national OATV conference will be in August 22-26, 2017 in New Hampshire.

Question on the break up on the registration fees

\$44 registration fees for 2 years, \$32 registration fees for non-resident fees for one year.

Jim Sherman wanted to see the online registration for non-residents, and the possible solution is permitting clubs to register their out-of-state participants for events.

The different between MA and other states is that the state wanted to ensure these vehicles have VIN #s to make sure the vehicles are not stolen.

### **Updates on Town of Plymouth – David Gould**

The town inquired on two properties with easy access from the highway; one near Kingston and south Plymouth, with easy access, but lost the opportunity to acquire any of these opportunities.

Bob O'Connor – there is the need to repost the OHV Grant to accept applications on rolling basis to enable Towns accept funds for acquisition for OHV riding.

David Gould - there is the need for funding for feasibility studies, and regional planning agencies can conduct the feasibility studies.

Look into Chapter 90B roads,

Bob, Get Phil Call to come to the next meeting with the maps on Camp Edward - Raffi

### **Presentation on the OHV Workshop - Emmanuel Owusu**

- Presentation on the recommendations

There was discussion on how to request the back gas taxes for OHVs.

Expand special permitting for motorized vehicles use on DCR's lands

- The committee voted to allow captain walker to approach her senior management to allow the frequently asked questions video for public use.

#### **Viable OHV Riding Area Opportunities - Sharl Heller SAMPA**

- Old Colony OHV Association, new group formed at Plymouth.
- Conveyed a meeting to facilitate the process of working with the OHV coordinator to find lands for OHV riding opportunities.
- The group seeks to solicit the support of non-riding community, publicize on their efforts,
- Potential riding area on the Chester Hill property

#### **Discussion on Legislation Changes**

- The need to mark out the sections in the existing landowners' liability law that needs to be changes.

Question - why can't we used the OHV funds to cover the landowner

- Scott will find the Maine laws and New Hampshire OHV laws.

Robert Gubala suggested that OHV Grant be reposted to sign the towns that funding is available for development of OHV riding opportunity