

OHV Advisory Committee Meeting
December 5th, 2017

Meeting time: 10:00 AM

Location: 198 Purgatory Rd, Sutton, MA 01590

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs: (EOEEA): Kurt Gaertner, Scott Morrill

Mr. Gaertner and Mr. Morrill discussed the OHV fund and where to expect some investments in riding. Possible initiatives by EOEEA may include grant assistance for trail easement / land purchasing, and an OHV technical assistance program which will instruct those interested on how to form and sustain their own 501(C) OHV organization. Also addressed was the 2016 OHV multi-agency workshop that was held in Worcester Massachusetts and the suggestions that were highlighted during the event. Mr. Gaertner stated that there would be meetings with DCR to discuss opportunities at DCR properties which was mentioned multiple times at the OHV workshop. Mr. Morrill also suggested the exploration of OHV use on unimproved, lightly traveled dirt roads as an avenue to connect OHV trails, though this concept is still in its early stages. By a show of hands, Committee members voted unanimously in favor of further exploration of a 501(C) creation program as well as partial use of dirt roadways as a trail connector.

OHV Child Safety Presentation: Dr. Michael Flaherty

Dr. Michael Flaherty of Mass General Hospital gave a presentation outlining the success in reducing emergency room visits by toddlers to young adults due to OHV accidents. Dr. Flaherty focused on the decline in visits relating to pre Sean's Law and post Sean's law.

Massachusetts Environmental Police: (MEP) Captain Merri Walker

Captain Walker provided a handout that summarized the Massachusetts Environmental Police's OHV enforcement, outreach, education and training through the 2017 Calendar year. Captain Walker explained where the agency was most active, where patrols were directed, and where OHV training courses were held.

Department of Conservation and Recreation Presentation: Adam Morris

Adam Morris, the Field Operation Team Leader for the Beartown State Forest Complex provided a presentation that offered insight to the daily operations, challenges, and needs of a State Forest that provides Off Highway Vehicle use as a recreational opportunity. Mr. Morris discussed completed projects and also explained plans he hopes to see started in the upcoming calendar year. With the assistance of EOEEA, the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Program,

and Massachusetts DCR, there is an ongoing effort to develop and enact a comprehensive trail restoration and development plan in 2018. Accompanying Mr. Morris was Richard Woodward the District Manager of Mass DCR's Lakes District, and Dominic Sacco the acting Regional Director for Mass DCR's West Region.

Other Comments: Committee Members

Randy Toth, representative for the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts discussed the difficulty some of the Snowmobile clubs were having with purchasing through the Rec Trails Program and the Buy America program. He stated that waivers were not being processed through the federal Government at this time and there were many items the clubs could not buy because they aren't made by American companies.

James Sherman announced his stepping down as the NETRA representative on the Committee as he is moving out of State. Mr. Sherman voiced NETRA's support for his replacement- Raffi Peterson.