

Massachusetts OHV Advisory Committee Meeting # 54 Notes
Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024
Venue: Online Zoom Virtual Meeting

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

*Randy Toth – SAM representative

Jeff Miller - SAM

Lt. John Girvalakis – MEP ATV and Boating Safety

*Captain Erik Tynan – Law Enforcement / MEP representative

Captain Jack Chapin – Law Enforcement / MEP representative

Mackenzie Greer - DCR

*Jim Caffrey – Large landowner representative

*Michael White – Mohawk 4x4 / OHV user representative

Shelly Kaleita – Beacon Hill Consulting

Jon Oulette – Southcoast Motorangers

*Max Rosbold-Gabbard – DPH Massachusetts

10:10 Meeting is called to order.

Introductions are followed by Scott Morrill providing an EEA update.

Scott Morrill reported that SAM had secured a booth at the Mass Trails conference and would encourage participation from other motorized user groups such as ATV, side x sides, 4x4 rock crawlers, and trailbikes. The need for an updated list of "official" OHVAC members was discussed and, in a follow-up, email from Mr. Morrill we were provided with an up-to-date list showing the four memberships that had expired and the one unfilled. Mr. Morrill stated that he will work to get them filled. The election of a committee member as chairperson was discussed which is outlined in the statute which created the committee. A discussion of just what the land acquisition subcommittee was addressed. Mr. Morrill reminded the group that this was not an advocacy group for motorized recreation; but an advisory group for EOEEA, DCR, DFG, DEP and MEP. The subcommittee was ultimately dissolved and discussions regarding land acquisition would be discussed with the entire committee. The practice of allowing substitutes for missing official members was eliminated as there were appointed members missing too many meetings and not being involved at all. OHVAC funds set aside for land acquisition and trail work continue to grow. The issue of a 4x4 (jeep) representative was brought up again. Due to a lack of permitted 4x4 trails when the committee was formed, no 4x4 seat was assigned. Mr. Morrill stated that he remains open to the idea and Mr. White, as a 4x4 user, has been doing a great job in representing the 4x4 community even as a general OHV user rep.

The next update was provided by the NETRA rep, Raffi Peterson. This past year was a successful year for NETRA as the riding season comes to an end. NETRA performed multiple volunteer projects including one which was partially funded by the Massachusetts OHV fund. Mr. Peterson also stated that some projects were done in unison with other user groups and organizations, such as mountain bikers and their organization, NEMBA. Mr. Peterson also mentioned that multiple NETRA members attended the NOHVCC Great Trails workshop that was organized by Mr. Morrill and the were grateful for the training.

The following snowmobile update was provided by Randy Toth, the SAM rep. SAM members were busy volunteering for trail work as they prepare for the upcoming snow season. There was an effort from SAM leadership to assist clubs in GPS'ing their local trails in hopes of developing a more accurate local trail map system and assess which trails might be vulnerable. One issue that was identified as a vulnerable connection was that which connects Mt Greylock to the Savoy / Windsor areas. Due to the success of last year's snow expo, SAM plans to bring back their popular trailer raffle, which was not offered last year. SAM offered to host a multi-use OHV trail seminar at the MassTrails seminar but the idea was turned down. They plan on asking again for the next MassTrails seminar. Mr. Toth also said that their RTP grant submission for paid groomers was not successful. The troubles arose from documentation of hours and work performed. SAM hopes to re-apply next year and hopefully the online, digital groomer app will address the issue of time reporting.

The next update was provided by Captain Chapin for the Massachusetts Environmental Police. Capt. Chapin stated that he would be transferring to another position in MEP and that his replacement would be Captain Erik Tynan. Captain Chapin reported that OHV accidents and calls for service had remained consistent over the past few years. MEP also had recently graduated 16 new officers to boost their low officer numbers.

As there were no DCR field personnel in attendance, a DCR update was not provided.