

OHV Advisory Committee Meeting Notes
March 6th, 2018

Meeting time: 10:00 AM

Location: 198 Purgatory Rd, Sutton, MA 01590

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

Mr. Morrill announced the new appointments of:

Chief Thomas Galvin - Law Enforcement Representative from the Berlin Police Dept.

Raffi Peterson - Representative of the New England Trail Rider Association

As well as the reappointments of:

Captain Merri Walker - Representative of the Massachusetts Environmental Police

Mike Toomey - Representative of the Forest and Park Friends Network

Randy Toth - Representative of the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts

Army Corps of Engineers Presentation: Timothy Russell

Mr. Russell discusses the riding opportunities available at Hodges Village Dam located in Oxford, MA. Hodges Village Dam is an U.S. Army Corps of Engineers property that is divided by the French River, which permits off-highway motorcycle use on the west side of the property. Mr. Russell discussed the realization that there was a demand for motorized use, and the steps taken to provide an area designated for multi-use. Mr. Russell also highlighted the importance of community engagement and gaining compliance by outreach and cooperation.

Massachusetts Environmental Police: (MEP) Major David Loos

Major Loos provided updates regarding the out of state registration exemption for participants in sanctioned events. Major Loos also updated the advisory committee on the Massachusetts Environmental Police splitting their education programs between OHV's and boating, as well as the agency sending some of its officers to New Hampshire in order to receive advanced snowmobile training. Massachusetts Environmental Police is also attempting to develop a program which will provide adequate UTV training for other agencies and municipalities within the commonwealth.

Department of Conservation and Recreation Update: C. Hajjar, R. Woodward, D. Sacco

DCR briefed the committee on their recent requests for additional equipment and the transition to a new DCR OHV coordinator. There was also an update to the status of the Pittsfield State Forest project- which is in the final stages of permitting, and the October

Mountain trail repair project, which is currently being permitted with the assistance of Mr. Morrill from EEA.

Other Comments: Committee Members and Public Input

Raffi Peterson- NETRA representative: Mr. Peterson commented on the benefit Mr. Morrill would have if provided trail vehicles in order to increase his response and mobility.

Mike Toomey- Forest and Park Friends Network Representative: Mr. Toomey discussed the potential for outreach by utilizing Registry of Motor Vehicle displays within their offices and on the RMV message boards. Mr. Toomey also discussed the creation of a program to be aired on public access TV which discussed OHV use in Massachusetts.

Doug McCray- OHV Rider representative: Mr. McCray proposed the idea of having a registration free day where OHV enthusiasts could experience Massachusetts trails and the benefits of registration.

Cynthia Henshaw- East Quabbin Land Trust: Ms. Henshaw questioned the feasibility of a park for electric OHV's in order to limit noise disturbance and garnish greater acceptance of OHV use near more populated areas.