



BAXTER STATE PARK ADVISORY MEETING MINUTES
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE POLY COM
February 27, 2014
10.00 A.M.

ATTENDEES:

ADVISORS: UMO - Rick Bray, Rosemary Hastings, Spencer Meyer, Dave Bucello
USM - Tom Bradbury, Steve Hutnak
UMFK - Tom Goetz

BSP STAFF: Jensen Bissell, Christine Theriault, Ben Woodard, Jean Hoekwater, Morgan Taylor

GUESTS: Anne Huntington

Bray called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He welcomed everyone. Following introductions around all the sites, he moved to the agenda.

1/16/2014 ADVISORY MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes were moved for approval (Bucello) and seconded (Hastings). The vote was unanimous.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bray polled for old business issue. No members raised old business.

PARK UPDATE: Bissell discussed current Park work including the FY14 budget, the cancellation of the March Authority meeting and the announced departure of Resource Manager Rick Morrill later in the year. Woodard updated the committee on recent Avalanche II training, winter recreation use levels. Theriault updated the committee regarding recent hiring efforts at various positions. Hoekwater noted that I&E is in the process of reviewing applications for Alpine Steward and other seasonal summer positions. Bissell noted that the Taylor and Hoekwater had recently completed the first short video for addition to the Park website and that the Park would likely soon move ahead on the addition of social media outlets.

RULE 2.2 – CHILDREN UNDER 6 ABOVE TIMBERLINE - Bissell reviewed the meeting preparations materials. Bissell explained that that the prohibition of children under 6 years of age above timberline has been discussed at the administrative level and the admin team would benefit from hearing feedback from the Advisory Committee. A significant and

comprehensive discussion of the aspects of policy, consistency with the wilderness concept of BSP, enforcement, personal responsibility, outcomes and other facets of the current rule ensued. The majority of the attending committee members supported discontinuing the rule. Park rangers and staff should recommend safe practices when hiking, including when hiking with children, consistent with other advice, information and recommendations provided regarding outdoor activities in the Park landscape. Bissell thanked the committee for the excellent discussion.

BSP MEDIA POLICY – Bissell noted that the committee has contributed significantly to the development of the current policy which was approved by the Authority in 2012. Bissell wanted to update the committee on the level of use of the policy and explore any current questions or comments the committee might have on the present or future application of the policy. Policy elements were discussed including pricing, annual volume, thresholds for applicability and/or acceptance, assignment of monitors and negotiated items. The existing policy was recognized as a useful tool in protecting Park resources and the visitor experience. Opportunities for future modifications to the policy including pricing, and application to still photography were discussed.

COMMENTS FROM GUESTS/ADJOURN:

Anne Huntington offered comments on behalf of the Friends of BSP in support of the removal of the portion of rule 2.2 regarding children above timberline. Huntington also noted that the FBSP was in the process of the hiring process for a FBSP Volunteer Coordinator and the position application period would be open for about another week. There being no other comments from advisors or guests, Bray thanked everyone for their participation and the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The next advisory meeting will be held March 20 at 10:00 a.m. at all poly com sites.

Rick Bray, Chair BSP Advisory