



NOVEMBER 5, 2019 BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
DOE MOUNTAIN RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD

A meeting of the Doe Mountain Recreation Authority (DMRA) Board of Directors was held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 at the First Tennessee Development District, Johnson City, Tennessee.

Vice Chairman Taylor called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

I. Board Members Present

Frank Arnold	Anne Marshall
Mike Farmer	Ron Ramsey
Jerry Grindstaff	Dan Reese
Carolyn Hawkins	Tim Sain
Don Hurst	Ray Stout
Dave Jones	Mike Taylor
Gabby Lynch	

Absent: Kristy Herman, Kevin Parsons

DMRA Staff and Guests Present:

Tate Davis, Executive Director  
Lynn Hicks  
Gloria Griffiths  
Representative Timothy Hill

II. Minutes from the September 10, 2019 meeting were reviewed. **R. Stout motioned for approval of the minutes. C. Hawkins seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

III. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

IV. Financial Report

F. Arnold reported that the DMRA's Johnson County agency fund account cash position as of October 31, 2019 is \$28,565.63. The Johnson County bank account's cash position as of October 31, 2019 is \$117,318. M. Farmer asked if the DMRA needs to hold a certain amount of its cash in interest-bearing

accounts per the DMRA's legislation. G. Lynch will research that question. **Carolyn Hawkins motioned to approve the financial report. A. Marshall seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

V. Special Discussion Item: Spearhead Trails Policies around Mahindra Roxor-type Vehicles

Executive Director Tate Davis shared size specification handouts for new and increasingly popular off-road vehicles that are exceeding 50" vehicle width and even go up to 72". The Spearhead Trails system has grappled with vehicle size as well due to the increased damage happening to the trails because of higher tire pressures; Spearhead has now instituted policies that limit tire pressure to 20 PSI and Mahindra Roxors are prohibited. Discussion ensued about the difference between policy changes and rule changes and which category this topic would fall under. R. Ramsey offered to research that issue and report back to the Executive Committee by its December 18, 2019 meeting.

Special Discussion Item: Forest Carbon Update

G. Lynch reported that the DMRA submitted a second carbon revenue invoice in early November for \$125,250. This amount will be wired by Bluesource to the DMRA's Johnson County bank account; the carbon offset buyer for this sale is a Georgia utility company. G. Lynch also reported on the favorable press coverage that the DMRA's forest carbon press release generated in mid-October. Finally, G. Lynch and T. Davis submitted Doe Mountain's forest carbon project as a presentation abstract for the 2020 Tennessee Environmental Conference that is held in Kingsport.

VI. Executive Director's Report

T. Davis reported on continued record pass sales, increased social media hits and traffic, the request for an expanded town OHV zone (interest within town council but no decisions made), website rebuild, public relations successes, upcoming events on the mountain, and grants updates.

Discussion ensued about legislative changes that would benefit the DMRA's operations and the fact that requests should be prepared in advance of the Legislature convening in January.

Discussion ensued about the coming year's priorities for new project opportunities on the mountain and what are the most important goals – visitor experience, accessibility to town, viewing platforms, other structures, a ribbon cutting event for the fire tower – particularly vis-à-vis anticipated grant surpluses. G. Lynch suggested that T. Davis take some time over the winter to develop a wish list of these projects for the Board's consideration at the February Board meeting. Board members agree that an event to celebrate the fire tower improvements should be its own event in conjunction with the April Board meeting that could be held in Mountain City.

VII. Individual Committee Reports:

- a. Roads & Trails: No report.
- b. Hunting & Shooting Sports: No report.
- c. Natural Resources: G. Griffith reported that the Bog Learning Network's weed-pulling day at the skunk cabbage wetland had to be postponed until Spring 2020.

- d. Master Planning: No report.
- e. Executive: Committee business covered elsewhere in the agenda.
- f. Marketing/Outreach & Business Development: No report.

VII. Other Business:

T. Davis reported that East Tennessee ATV has asked that a Doe Mountain sign be fabricated and posted at the Doe Mountain entrance. Polaris would purchase the sign and would want its logo on the sign. G. Lynch cautioned that corporate advertising needs to be attached to some level of financial support of the Doe Mountain project. The Board asked T. Davis request more information from East TN ATV about the sign's specifications and uses.

T. Davis reported that the outfitter Appalachian Outdoors Adventures has requested that the DMRA provide their business with a garage facility with water and electricity to be located on the DMRA property. One possibility could be a fenced, secure area on the hill and gravel lot above the main parking area. This latter scenario would also benefit the DMRA and its equipment storage needs. M. Farmer and others noted that the Board needs to treat all vendors fairly. D. Jones asked if any of the anticipated ARC grant surplus could be used for an improvement of this kind; T. Davis will inquire.

VIII. Set Next Meeting Date/Time/Place

The next meeting will be set for Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at the First Tennessee Development District office in Johnson City, Tennessee.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by D. Reese at 2:50 pm. G. Lynch seconded.

Minutes Taken By:



Gabrielle K. Lynch  
DMRA Corresponding Secretary

***The mission of the Doe Mountain Recreation Authority is to transform Doe Mountain into a safe, fun, family-oriented, multi-use outdoor recreational destination that promotes local economic development while conserving and protecting its beauty, woods, water and wildlife.***