

Town of Kingfield

Selectmen individually support High Peaks Initiative

**By David Hart
Irregular Staff**

KINGFIELD — “Maine is a special place, but within that special place there is a very, very special place,” said High Peaks Alliance representative Roger Lambert.

He was referring to a loosely identified region of high mountains tops from Kingfield through Phillips north to Rangeley and east to Stratton.

He explained this at a Kingfield selectmen’s meeting in hopes and eventual success of getting individual support for the group’s initiative.

“Maine is a changing place and the ownership is changing,” Lambert explained. Years ago, he said land was owned by the big forestry product companies and now big holding companies own the land. Over the span of 20 years in Maine, over 70 percent of the land has changed ownership. “That’s a pretty scary thought—and it could be for the good, it could be for the bad,” he said.

Lambert explained that he and others feel that this special area should stay the same and not be impacted by the pressures of restrictive development or more importantly ownership that restricts access to the vistas and

ranges. His group wants access to see continued hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, ATV riding and other outdoor recreational ventures.

He stressed that his group working with the ideas of Chris Beach came up with the concept of forming alliances and working with all local interests groups to allow all recreational activities through this specific area.

Lloyd Griscom of Phillips/Madrid of the High Peaks Alliance and Maine Appalachian Land Trust also supported the concept and was present that evening. They explained the organization’s Back Country Trails Initiative which sought the support to secure recreation easements and trails.

Their hope is to maintain traditional outdoor recreational uses while maintaining sustainable forest practices and enhancing relationships between landowners and outdoor motorized and non-motorized recreational

activities.

Lambert said that they hoped to create these trails to link the local towns together and use their current infrastructure and business communities to enhance both the visitor and local economic enhancement endeavors.

Their initiative is huge representatives said, but they feel that the special area is worth the effort to for this initiative.

Griscom said that negotiations through local large landowners have been very positive and he felt very positive for ongoing success.

“I support something like this, but hope it doesn’t get into the political avenue like wind power, because the minute you get into that your going to have some people very supportive, and (suddenly) you’re going to alienate others,” selectman Neal McCurdy said.


High Peaks Alliance representatives said they’ll keep the selectmen in the loop in future months.

Free wide-spread Internet access to be investigated

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KINGFIELD — In a Special Town Meeting last Tuesday, a 5-0 vote accepted the refinancing of the town’s 20-year bond for its subsurface waste water system and related property acquisition.

The newly approved note of \$610,000 represents a decrease from the original bond of \$1,040,000. The



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