

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Acadia National Park Advisory Commission

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1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

2. Fiscal Year

2025

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Acadia National Park Advisory
Commission

3b. GSA Committee No.

71

4. Is this New Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

09/24/2024

6. Expected Renewal Date

09/24/2026

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

P.L. 116-9

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency

Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

P.L. 99-420;

13. Effective Date

09/25/1986

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Non Scientific Program Advisory
Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for
this Fiscal Year

17a. Open

3

17b. Closed 0

17c. Partially Closed 0

Other Activities 0

17d. Total 3

Meetings and Dates

Purpose

Start

End

The Commission reviews and makes recommendations to accept proposed easements. The Commission also provides advice and recommendations on various operational issues at the park, such as visitor use, science, education, and cultural resource and historic preservation. 02/03/2025 - 02/03/2025

The Commission reviews and makes recommendations to accept proposed easements. The Commission also provides advice and recommendations on various operational issues at the park, such as visitor use, science, education, and cultural resource and historic preservation. 06/02/2025 - 06/02/2025

The Commission reviews and makes recommendations to accept proposed easements. The Commission also provides advice and recommendations on various operational issues at the park, such as visitor use, science, education, and cultural resource and historic preservation. 09/08/2025 - 09/08/2025

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 3

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00

18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Commission reviews and makes recommendations to accept proposed easements. The Commission also provides advice and recommendations on various operational issues at the park, such as visitor use, science, education, and cultural resource and historic preservation.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

As prescribed by the enabling legislation, the sixteen-member Commission is composed of: (a) three members at large; (b) three members from among individuals recommended by the Governor of Maine; (c) four members from among recommendations by each of the four towns on the island of Mount Desert; (d) three members from among individuals recommended by each of the three Hancock county mainland communities of Gouldsboro, Winter Harbor and Trenton; (e) three members from among recommendations by each of the three island towns of Cranberry isles, Swans island and Frenchboro. The members represent the interests of property owners, fishermen, businessmen, lawyers, academics, conservationists, recreationists, as well as the interests of towns, counties and state concerns.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Commission meets an average of three times

per year, with subcommittee work in between full meetings. This schedule has proved practical for their accomplishments and duties. The Commission members assist with the necessary research and communication to arrive at sound decisions for full Commission discussions. At full Commission meetings the Commissioners function as advisors concerning subject areas under deliberation. All meetings are held in-person and virtually to provide the public options to participate at Commission meetings.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Commission was established by the Congress to consult with the Secretary of the Interior on matters relating to the management and development of Acadia National Park, including but not limited to, the acquisition of lands and interests in lands (including conservation easements on islands), and termination of rights-of-use and occupancy. Qualified advice concerning issues that affect a wide array of subjects from those of simple local property owners to those that affect town, county, and state interests can only be attained from individuals who possess fundamental knowledge, understanding, and interest in those areas. For example, the Commissioners' first-hand knowledge and understanding of property owners affected by easements provided valuable insights for park management to proceed in a more effective manner.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

All meetings are open to the public.

21. Remarks

Pursuant to Section 301(a)(b), Public Law 102-525, October 26, 1992, regarding charters and members of National Park System Advisory Committees: (a) The provisions of section 14(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. Appendix; 86 Stat. 776) are hereby waived with respect to any advisory commission or advisory committee established by law in connection with any national park system unit during the period such advisory commission or advisory committee is authorized by law. (b) In the case of any advisory commission or advisory committee established in connection with any national park system unit, any member of such commission or committee may serve after the expiration of his or her term until a successor is appointed. The Commission terminated September 25, 2006, but was re-established by Public Law 110-229, May 8, 2008, Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008; EXTENSION OF ACADIA NATIONAL PARK ADVISORY COMMISSION. (1) IN GENERAL— Section 103(f) of Public Law 99-420 (16 U.S.C. 341 note) is amended by striking “20” and inserting “40”. (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on September 25, 2006. The Commission will carry out its duties until September 25, 2026.

Designated Federal Officer

Kevin Schneider Superintendent, Acadia National Park

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Barto, Pearl	03/06/2024	03/06/2027	Business Owner	Representative Member
Brooks, Carl	04/18/2023	04/18/2026	Island Resident	Representative Member
Clapp, Jeffrey	11/06/2023	11/06/2026	Business Owner, Fishing Industry	Representative Member
Collins, Darron	11/06/2023	11/06/2026	College of the Atlantic	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Davis, Kendall	04/25/2020	11/06/2026	Resident	Representative Member
Ehrlenbach, R. Fred	06/26/2004	11/06/2026	Resident	Representative Member
Emerson, Kirk	11/06/2023	11/06/2026	Resident	Representative Member
Gothard, Carolyn	09/28/2011	11/06/2026	Resident	Representative Member
Horton, Matthew	02/28/2012	11/06/2026	Vice President/Branch Manager for Machias Savings Bank	Representative Member
Johnston, Jacqueline	01/18/2002	11/06/2026	Resident	Representative Member
Montenko, Howie	02/28/2012	11/06/2026	Soft Engineer II, The Jackslon Laboratory	Representative Member
Newsom, Bonnie	01/24/2023	01/24/2026	Prof of Anthropology, Penobscot Indian Nation	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Shea, Stephen	02/19/2016	11/06/2026	Owner/Treasurer/Project Manager/Estimator, E.L. Shea, Inc.	Representative Member
Smith, Kenneth	02/19/2016	11/06/2026	Resident	Representative Member
Wiersma, G. Bruce	03/17/2005	11/06/2026	Dean, College of Natural Science, Forestry and Agriculture	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Worcester, Ben	04/02/1988	11/06/2026	Resident	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 16

Narrative Description

Qualified advice concerning issues that affected a wide array of subjects, from those of simple local property owners to those that affect town, county, and state interests, can only be attained from individuals who possess fundamental knowledge, understanding and interest in those areas. The Commission provides a platform for public input on park issues.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if
Applies

Improvements to health or safety



Trust in government



Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

85

Number of Recommendations Comments

Three recommendations were made in 2024. • Recommendation by Park Use Committee: (Review of the Park's Firing Range) As such that it is a recommendation of the park committee that the use of the Park's firing range continues as it is currently being operated. • A motion was approved to accept the Park Use Committee report and recommendation as stated. • Recommendation by the Lands Committee: (Reviewing of the proposal for expanding the Otter Creek boat launch) Recognizing that the units within

the National Park Service do not have the legal authority to donate lands, and the National Park lands are of national interest, we (Land's Committee) recommend that any expansion of the Otter Creek boat launch should be realized through a land exchange agreement between Acadia National Park and the Town of Mount Desert. • A motion was approved to accept the Land Committee report and recommendation as stated; 1 opposed. Recommendation by the Lands Committee: (Addition to previous recommendation). "We want everyone on the commission, and more broadly, to understand that the Lands Committee is supportive of the work needed for the boat launch. We also wanted to emphasize that the strong collaborative nature between the National Park and the community of Mount Desert is ultimately important, and anything we can do that's in our purview as the Lands Committee to strengthen that relationship we'd certainly like to do. We didn't want our comments from last meeting in any way to be heard as that we weren't supportive. We were entirely supportive of the work that needs to be done at the boat launch. We just felt that the most appropriate way moving forward for doing that was with an exchange. We wanted to encourage the town of Mount Desert to sit down face to face ideally with Acadia National Park, in order to think through some of those options, and also wanted to emphasize that beyond an exchange there may be some other opportunities or other methods for acquiring the needed lands to make the improvements. One such possibility might be for implementing legislation, and that ultimately this was beyond the purview of the Lands Committee. But that would mean tapping into the Congressional Delegation in order to pursue some legislative way forward, or even considering a kind of land exchange, or a swap that would involve a 3rd party. And if this seemed reasonable, again, we wanted to encourage the town of Mount Desert to sit down with Acadian National Park staff, and again, face to face to figure out those options. So ultimately, again, we just wanted to emphasize that we're supportive of moving forward in a collaborative, constructive nature between the National Park and the town of Mount Desert, and we are at the ready to help make that happen in any way we can. Thank you." • A motion was approved to accept the Land Committee report and recommendation as stated; All approved.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

100%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

NA

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

NA

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Briefings and reports at the Advisory Commission meetings.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

Not Applicable

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>

Other



Access Comments

N/A