

Minutes
Hogback Preservation Commission
Marlboro, Vermont

The July 9, 2012 Regular Meeting of the Hogback Preservation Commission was called to order at 5:08 p.m. at the Marlboro Town Office by Hal Himmelstein, Chair.

Members Present: Christine Colella, Bob Engel, Hal Himmelstein, Ed Metcalfe, and Mike Purcell

Members Absent: Lauren MacArthur, Jim Tober

Others Attending: Staley McDermet (New President of the Hogback Mountain Conservation Association)

The minutes of the May 14, 2012 Regular Meeting were approved as distributed.

Officer and Committee Reports

Chair's Report: The Commission is still hoping to receive a preliminary habitat assessment from Audubon Vermont's Steve Hagenbuch which will guide our future participation in Audubon's nesting songbird forest management program. HMCA's Diana Todd has finished a new Conservation Area trail map. This map has been posted at the trailheads and will appear on the forthcoming revised and updated www.hogback.org web site.

HMCA Report: Staley McDermet reported on the reorganization of HMCA. The new board members are Bob Anderson, Nancy Anderson, Carol Berner, Jen Carr, Michael Clough, Staley McDermet, and Diana Todd. The officers are Staley McDermet, President; Bob Anderson, Vice-President; Nancy Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer; and Jenn Carr, Assistant Treasurer. It is the sense of the new HMCA board that, having successfully completed the major fundraising effort, HMCA would work more effectively with fewer directors. It therefore adopted a change from the current 9 – 17 member board, to a board of 5 - 9 directors. The new HMCA board believes that there will be a greater clarity of the respective roles of HMCA and the Hogback Preservation Commission if HMCA directors are not also members of HPC. The board saw HMCA's key roles going forward as the Trail Corridor Manager for pedestrian trails, supporting science and educational initiatives, advocating for stewardship of the Conservation Area with an independent voice, and providing input to the Town of Marlboro's Hogback Preservation Commission.

HMCA board member Diana Todd will make a presentation on the Conservation Area's Bishop Homestead at the Marlboro Historical Society's annual meeting on July 19.

Per Bob Engel's recommendation at HPC's May 14 meeting that trail posts in the Conservation Area be of environmentally friendly material, Hal, in consultation with HMCA's Bob Anderson, decided to purchase and install locust posts on which to mount informational trail signs. An initial order of 10 locust posts was placed with Wayside Fences in West Brattleboro. Two of the posts have been installed.

Bob Engel and Hal will work on criteria for developing a set of standards for trail signage in the Conservation Area.

Mike Purcell spearheaded the clearing and upgrading of the new entrance trail to White's Loop on the north side and the reroute of a section of White's Loop to avoid a fall line. The new trail was GPSed by HMCA's Diana Todd. Durable tread material has been put down, and attractive and functional stone armoring has been placed at wet areas along the trail.

Southern Vermont Natural History Museum: Ed reported that the museum did not have any new interpretive signs made up as of yet.

Old Business

The Commission discussed the wording of the latest version of the Special Use Permit for a Group Event or Organized Activity. Based upon this discussion, Hal will rewrite sections of the proposed Special Use Permit form and email the revised version to Commission members for comment. Those Commissioners present unanimously approved the Special Use Permit form document with the recommended changes.

The Commission discussed a suggested revision of the Conservation Area Management Plan section on "Administration" and the proposed Commission Rules of Procedure, the latter to be included in the Management Plan as an Appendix. The Commissioners present voted unanimously to approve the revision of the Management Plan to reflect these changes.

Disposition of Aging Structures. Ed reported on the potential cost of disposing of the waste and debris at the various structures on the property. The Commission voted to approve up to \$600 for the disposal of waste associated with the Conservation Area's buildings and will approach HMCA for assistance in setting up a volunteer day and finding help.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Metcalfe
Secretary pro tempore