

**Minutes  
Hogback Preservation Commission  
Marlboro, Vermont**

The November 12, 2012 Regular Meeting of the Hogback Preservation Commission was called to order at 5:05 p.m. at the Marlboro Town Office by Hal Himmelstein, Chair.

***Members Present:*** Bob Engel, Hal Himmelstein, Lauren MacArthur, Ed Metcalfe, Mike Purcell, and Jim Tober

***Members Absent:*** Christine Colella

***Also Attending:*** Staley McDermet, President, HMCA

The minutes of the September 10, 2012 Regular Meeting were approved as distributed.

***Officer and Committee Reports***

***Chair's Report:***

Posts and cables were installed at the Grant Road Trail Head and the intersection of Old Hogback Road and the Douglas Trail to prevent unauthorized vehicles from entering the Conservation Area; this was a joint effort of HPC, HMCA, and the Deerfield Valley Stump Jumpers chapter of VAST.

Audubon Vermont Conservation Biologist Steve Hagenbuch presented his Early Successional Habitat Assessment to HPC on October 22, 2012. At that meeting HMCA presented its proposal entitled "Conserving Habitat Variety." The two proposals have subsequently been reconciled and will be considered for adoption under New Business.

A 30-yard dumpster was rolled off at the former Hogback Ski Area's First Aid Building on November 9. Clean-out of the First Aid Building and Lift House are under way. Thanks to Christine Colella for arranging the dumpster delivery.

The Chair attended the Wilmington Trail Committee meeting on November 8 to discuss trail maps, blazes, and signage. Bob Fisher noted that a few coniferous trees had fallen over the Bishop Trail, likely the result of Hurricane Sandy's winds.

There is a need to purchase prohibitory signage for the newly-installed trail posts and trail post-and-cable barriers. The Chair distributed samples for consideration.

The Chair has asked the Town of Marlboro's road crew to install boulders to block an informal vehicular path off Old Hogback Road used by hunters to park their vehicles. The path extends about 100 feet into the forest where it reaches an active stream.

Various discarded items, including auto parts, were discovered by the stream. These items have subsequently been removed.

The Chair noted that the HPC 2011 Operating Budget had allocated \$3,000 for repair or demolition of the First Aid Building per request of HMCA as part of HMCA's transfer of funds to the Conservation Area's Endowment Fund. None of these monies were spent in 2011. The 30-yard dumpster rental is the first expenditure on this project.

***HMCA Report:***

HMCA President Staley McDermet reported on HMCA's board meeting held November 1 at which the following were discussed: (1) the Conserving Habitat Variety proposal; (2) a 2013 budget proposal to be considered by HPC; and (3) the development and placement of interpretive signage on Conservation Area trails.

***Conservation Commission Report:***

A review of Conservation Commission discussions regarding setbacks for wildlife management buffers throughout the Town of Marlboro was presented.

***Planning Commission Report:***

The Planning Commission is reviewing the Conservation Commission's proposed wildlife management buffer criteria, including wildlife crossing considerations/designations, for possible inclusion in the appropriate sections of the town plan. Village Historic District provisions are also being reviewed.

***Southern Vermont Natural History Museum Report:***

Progress was reported on the construction of a large cage at the Museum to house a bald eagle which will soon be acquired by the museum. The fundraising efforts of Marlboro Elementary School students on behalf of the eagle project were applauded.

***Old Business***

The revised Conservation Area signage guidelines were tabled in order to add a section on interpretive signage. The guidelines will be considered at the January 2013 meeting.

A motion to approve a pilot project, initiated by HMCA and the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, to prepare and install interpretive signs at various locations along Conservation Area trails was M/S/P (6-0).

***New Business***

A motion to provisionally accept HMCA’s “Conserving Habitat Variety” project proposal pending further scientific review by Marlboro College biology faculty was M/S/P (6-0). Final acceptance will be considered at the January 2013 meeting.

A motion to approve a draft of the proposed Conservation Area 2013 Budget for submission to the Marlboro Select Board for its approval was M/S/P (6-0). The budget proposal, a joint effort of HPC and HMCA, follows:

**Proposed Conservation Area 2013 Budget**

Stipends for Education Event Leaders & MES Day Expenses	\$500
Support for the 2013 Vermont Wildlife Festival	400
Trail Construction, Maintenance, and Signage	500
Trail Maps (printing maps & purchasing kiosk distribution holders)	250
Interpretive Signage	1,000
“Conserving Habitat Variety” Project (tools, fuel, etc.)	500
Historical Structure Stabilization & Maintenance	800
<b>Totals</b>	<b><u>\$3,950</u></b>

In further new business, it was agreed that Lauren MacArthur will investigate ways in which the HPC may better coordinate the development of a corps of volunteers for future Conservation Area projects. Lauren will work with HMCA President Staley McDermet on this issue. Commissioners agreed that the next Regular Meeting should include a discussion regarding governance and administrative structure, especially the evolving relationship between HPC and HMCA. In particular, HPC should more clearly articulate management goals/values and processes (e.g., who initiates Conservation Area projects, and who does what work, where, when, and under whose supervision).

The next Regular Meeting of the Hogback Preservation Commission is scheduled for Monday, January 14, 2013 at 5 p.m. at the Marlboro Town Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Purcell  
Secretary pro tempore

