

Minutes

Hogback Preservation Commission

Marlboro, Vermont

The September 9, 2013 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, Mike Purcell, Jim Tober.

Members Absent: Christine Colella, Ed Metcalfe.

Also Attending: Bob Anderson, President, HMCA

The minutes of the July 8, 2013 meeting were accepted as distributed.

Officer, Committee and Liaison Reports

Chair's Report

The chair reviewed the status of the Endowment Fund, noting that the Town Treasurer has issued a final ruling that, according to her long-standing policy, the Fund, like all other Town funds, will only be invested in FDIC-insured accounts held by Vermont banks. Current rates of interest will produce an annual income from the principal of approximately \$500.

The Commission will consider proposals for the 2014 CA budget at its November 11, 2013 meeting.

The 2013 Vermont Wildlife Festival, organized by the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum, will be held at the scenic overlook on September 28 from 10 a.m. to 4 p. m. The Commission has committed \$400 in support of this event.

Conservation Commission Report

No report.

Planning Commission Report

No report.

HMCA Report

Bob Anderson noted that he had been elected HMCA president for the coming year. Staley McDermet remains on the HMCA board as vice-president.

Bob described UVM undergraduate intern Amie Schiller's ongoing habitat research project presently being undertaken, under his tutelage, at three experimental plots (woods, swamp, and meadow) in the Conservation Area. Amie has prepared a summary report of her project which is featured on HMCA's web site.

Bob noted that 5 dates have been set for ESH cutting on the Meadow Ski Run beginning September 21. The ESH project details are posted on HMCA's web site.

Per HPC request, HMCA will establish a "General Trail Maintenance" section on the hogbackvt.org web site whereon specific calls for participation in trail maintenance activities will be posted. This information will be distinct from the abovementioned ESH project.

Southern Vermont Natural History Museum Report

No report.

Old Business

Bob Engel presented proposed language for interpretive signage guidelines to be included in the CA Management Plan. After discussion and recommended changes, Bob agreed to distribute the revised language via e-mail for Commissioners' review and final approval.

Input from all present produced an approved final draft version of user signage language to be posted on the CA kiosks.

Four informational mini-kiosks will be placed on the CA's north side in early October. Components for these kiosks are ready for assemblage. A trail crew work day to transport and install the kiosks will be called for the first weekend in October and posted on the hogbackvt.org web site and CA Facebook page.

New Business

Hal reported that Hogback Properties LLC sold a parcel of land abutting Old Hogback Road and containing the old Tea House and FBI tower to VTel. VTel has indicated that it intends to install a 140-foot cellular communication tower on the piece of land immediately north of Old Hogback Road. It also has indicated that the Tea House will be used for storage since human habitation is not

permitted on the site. Current available information suggests that the tower, in its proposed configuration, will not impinge on CA land or violate the terms of the conservation easement. HPC will monitor developments.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hal Himmelstein, Chair