

HMCA ANNUAL BOARD MEETING JANUARY 15, 2015 MINUTES  
Held at Anderson residence in Marlboro, VT

The meeting convened at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Board Members Nancy Anderson, Robert Anderson, Carol Berner, Mike Clough, Staley McDermet, Patti Smith, Diana Todd and HMCA members Hal Himmelstein and Mike Purcell.

Absent: Jen Carr.

1. Election of officers approved as follows: President Diana Todd, Vice President Staley McDermet, Secretary & Treasurer Nancy Anderson, Assistant Treasurer Jen Carr.
2. Election of Board of Directors, approved as follow: Nancy Anderson, Robert Anderson, Carol Berner, Jen Carr, Mike Clough, Staley McDermet, Patti Smith, Diana Todd
3. Diana presented four goals for the year: deal with minor issues such as approving reports via email to free up meetings for substantive issues; open board meetings to all membership (our newsletter and facebook constituents); hold one annual event with speaker; apply for 501c3 status.
4. Discussion of Summer Intern position that has been budgeted at \$3,000 in the 2015 budget. We decided to treat the intern as a contractor based on the Town Treasurer's recommendation, and Bob will look into the matter of liability insurance. The consensus was that we are more interested in getting someone to help with outreach to the public and behind the scenes organization rather than physical labor-type tasks. Ideas included publishing a list of things in the natural community to look at each week/month, conducting walks and improving the website. Rather than define specific duties in advance, the board decided to solicit proposals from job applicants of what that person felt he/she could do for Hogback. The entire board will serve on the committee and Diana will take the lead on it. The job announcement should be sent to colleges and local school admin staffs, outing clubs, individuals, Woodland Owners Association, Front Porch Forum of Marlboro and its neighboring Front Porch Forums (Newfane, Readsboro, Whitingham, Halifax).
5. Carol Berner reported on the Education Committee's initiative to digitize the MES 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade Field Guides documenting their Hogback research project and getting them onto the HMCA website. It is close to happening and the committee's first priority. She feels the launch of the now annual MES Field Day several years ago was successful in instigating more teacher projects using Hogback as a lab for school curricula, and sees it as a way to grow stewards of Hogback for the future.
6. New Business. Discussion of an issue raised briefly at the recent HPC meeting as to the roles of HPC and HMCA and whether changes should be made in order to address perceived confusion on the part of the public and to eliminate potential overlap of responsibilities. Hal reported that some HPC members thought merging the two organizations might be a good solution and proposed scheduling a joint HPC/HMCA Board meeting as soon as possible to discuss the possibility. Opinions of the Board members were mixed as to the utility of scheduling a joint meeting with the HPC to discuss

potential reorganization without first developing a better understanding of whether a problem actually exists, what the problem is, and what types of solutions would or would not be acceptable to the Selectboard. Hal stated he would talk to the Selectboard about the concerns raised by the HPC.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Anderson, Secretary