

Draft Minutes of the HMCA Board Meeting Sep 24, 2015, held at Diana Todd's residence in Halifax, Vermont

Called to order 7:10 pm.

Present: Board Members Bob Anderson, Nancy Anderson, Carol Berner, Mike Clough, Staley McDermet, Patti Smith, Diana Todd, Amanda Whiting, and Trail Committee Chair Mike Purcell.

Absent: Jen Carr

1. Reviewed policy on succession of board members; currently members serve one-year terms. Diana encouraged us to think about our own replacements in case the need arises.
2. Discussed stipends for leaders of guided walks. The board agreed to offer stipends to all we invite as part of making the arrangements, and agreed that the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum is eligible to share in the stipend budget for walks they arrange. As per our bylaws, board members are not eligible for the stipends.
3. The board agreed that it does want to participate with the Hogback Preservation Commission (HPC) in developing a Biodiversity Study. As a first step, Patti Smith, who has performed studies of this type, will share with the HPC the names of people she knows who are qualified to do this type of study.
4. The board prepared a preliminary budget for 2016.
 - a. As part of the discussion, it agreed to pursue hiring the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps for one week in 2016 to work on the Great White Way Early Successional Habitat (ESH) project, at a cost of \$4,000 to \$6,000. The Board will apply for grants to help fund the effort, and agreed to budget \$1000 towards the project, anticipating that some grants may be contingent on there being matching funds or in-kind donations such as volunteer labor.
 - b. The board discussed whether to budget funds to preserve "The Castle" building at the top of the T-bar, once serving as a warming hut for the ski patrol. Severe deterioration of key roof beams and floor joists have occurred since Staley did a complete analysis of it last year, and a substantial rebuild would now be needed rather than the repairs he first envisioned. Vandalism continues to be a problem, and temporary repairs done last fall have been damaged. Given that we have no expressed purpose for the building and no way to monitor and protect it, the board decided not to seek funds for this project .
 - c. The board agreed to buy/build trail map containers to post at the kiosks at the trail entry points, and to stabilize lift counterweights. The preliminary budget is attached.
5. Other Business

Nancy suggested that the board Secretary keep track of the various projects that we would like done but get put off for any number of

reasons, with as much rationale or research as we have prepared, so that we can go back to the list when time, money or resources allow. We might consider listing some of these on the website, as appropriate.

Mike Clough reported that Wolfgard Northeast, an organization that offers education programs exploring wolves and wilderness, is looking for donors and interested board members.

Bob is seeking input for the newsletter from board members and other guest writers in order to offer more diverse points of view in the articles.

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Anderson, Secretary