

**Notice of Regular Meeting of the Hogback Preservation Commission
5 p.m. Monday, January 11, 2016
Marlboro, Vermont Town Office**

Minutes

Call to Order : 5:03pm

Attendees: Michael Purcell, Christine Colella, Ed Metcalfe, Hal, David, Dianna Todd,
Lauren, Nancy Anderson PLEASE FILL IN NAMES

Review of Agenda

Approval of November 9, 2015 Minutes - approved

Reports

Chair's Report: Need to put together a report for Town Annual Report which was due on the 9th.

HMCA Report: Many exciting things in the works! The list of activities for HMCA include:

- BUHS volunteer fair – 12 wanted to volunteer and 1 has been here.
- Work party on Black Friday: 18 people helped clear blowdowns and woody growth from backcountry ski runs.
- VT Fish & Wildlife Grant: for funds to hire someone to help with ESH project.
- Are at the meeting to discuss the Biodiversity study
- Various on-mountain hikes and other activities in the works for this winter.

SVNHM Report : The biggest news for SVNHM that has been well documented in local newspapers is that they are looking to expand. The present location of the SVNHM is too small and they are working with a volunteer committee to see what options there are in various towns/locations. Ultimately SVNHM would like to stay in the valley but there are other options in Bennington and Brattleboro. Site committee meets on the 21st to establish criteria for new location.

With regard to the Skyline restaurant, new owners purchased the building and they are not planning on opening for a while (1+ year). They continue to do work sporadically on the property.

Ed reported that they have been busy with removing trash out of building at the top of the mountain and continue to clean up property. In doing so, Ed reported that the power company was also doing work at the top of the mountain (security reasons).

Old Business

Biodiversity study/Joint planning meeting w/HMCA

- Goals: Look at what we already have, look at what other towns have done
- Do we need one? Lauren will put together a statement for why we are meeting about the biodiversity study. This will reconfirm the the public that both HPC and HMCA have considered this question for some time and the upcoming meeting is a way for us to gather information.
- HPC will “warn” the meeting - post office, town office, online-Front Porch “Special Meeting”
- Scheduling: Diana to take care of (sometime the next 6 weeks)
- Minutes will be taken at the meeting so information can be shared with the public
- Meeting will be at Marlboro town offices

Snowmobile use in HMA/Grant Road “warning sign” location

- Notice sign very direct, large, and there have been some complaints due to the distracting nature of them. They seem to detract from the rural atmosphere and some neighbors would like to see them taken down, moved, or changed.
- It was decided that we will keep the sign “as is” for the season.
- Though large and direct, the signs can be easily seen by snowmobilers.
- Ideal solution would be to choose a better location- will investigate and move to a better location for next winter season in consideration of neighbor complaints.

New Business

Various HMA buildings status & future plans

Concern about trash being dumped around Benedict cottage (cement block building). This could become an “attractive nuisance.”

Review 4 buildings:

- Base first aid, Quonset hut, Benedict cottage, First aid hut
- First aid hut and Quonset hut should be preserved
- Benedict cottage – no historic significance

Motion: HPC will get estimates on taking down Benedict, fixing the first aid hut (the Castle) and base first aid. Motion was then amended to First Aid: cost to stabilize vs cost to tear down. Motion was accepted unanimously.

HPC will seek cost estimates for:

- Demo and removal of Benedict Cottage
- Repair of First Aid Hut – is it this one for 2 cost estimate??? HELP!
- Demo of First Aid Hut
- Repair of Base First Aid

HMA resources and policy regarding use and/or harvesting

- HPC reviewed the forest management goals and guidelines and the official position of the town is to offer areas for lease for sugaring.
- Per the Hogback Management Plan, anyone that wishes to commercially harvest and use the property for business must contact HPC with a proposal.

- As discussed, the Management Plan provides framing for any type of commercial harvesting.

Status of the “tea house” Vtel building?

- Asked Michele Gatay at Vtel (HELP, spelling- who?) and response was “yes.”
- At some point, HPC discussed that we may want to investigate the use of the tea house. There is no urgent need for this discussion at this time.

Adjournment – 7:04pm

Next Meeting:

Respectfully submitted by: Christine Colella