

Revised Minutes of the HMCA Annual Board Meeting held Mar 2, 2016 at Diana Todd's residence in Halifax, VT

Present: Board members Bob Anderson, Nancy Anderson, Carol Berner, Patti Smith, Staley McDermet, Diana Todd, Amanda Whiting. HPC Chairman Mike Purcell and Guests Laurel Copeland and Lynda Copeland.

Absent: Jen Carr, Mike Clough

The meeting came to order at 7:05 pm.

1. Elections. The existing Board of Directors for the Hogback Mountain Conservation Association (HMCA) were reelected for one year: Bob Anderson, Nancy Anderson, Carol Berner, Jen Carr, Michael Clough, Patti Smith, Staley McDermet, Diana Todd, Amanda Whiting. The existing officers were elected for one year: President Diana Todd, Vice President Staley McDermet, Secretary/Treasurer Nancy Anderson.
2. Treasurer's Report: Nancy presented the 2015 financial statements of HMCA, a combined report on 2015-2016 budgeted and actual expenditures by the Hogback Preservation Commission (HPC) and HMCA, and a report on the 2010-2015 cumulative expenditures from the Hogback Endowment Fund in the Town of Marlboro's hands. The fund balance at December 31 was \$124,350.81. Expenditures have been relatively stable through 2015, and 2016 will mark the first big budget jump – a combined HPC and HMCA budget of \$8,834. The reports were accepted unanimously. Laurel suggested staggering CD maturities quarterly to manage cash flow and maximize returns. Nancy recommended shifting procedures for HMCA's drawdown from the endowment fund to writing all checks from HMCA and requesting reimbursement from the town versus having the Town pay bills directly. She will work out any details with the town treasurer. Mike Purcell, as chair of HPC, and Nancy will meet with the Town Treasurer about arranging for cash flow needs in 2016.
3. Administrative Issues. Amanda reported on the Board Leadership Institute program run by the Marlboro College Graduate School for existing and potential board members. While the full program is expensive, individual courses can be taken at a reasonable cost.

Diana proposed finding an online place to store permanent documents that would be accessible to present and future board members. Amanda will research the matter. Ex. Google Drive, Drop Box. Laurel suggested we consider doing something soon on a short-term basis until we decide on a permanent solution.

Diana asked whether we need liability insurance coverage. Several members stated that if we don't charge for events at Hogback, town insurance applies. Nancy pointed out that events held off-site wouldn't fit into this category.

The Board agreed that we need to develop a fundraising plan. Bob and Carol volunteered to work on some ideas. One idea is establishing a donate button on our website and creating a PayPal account.

4. Museum news: Mike Clough notified Diana that the Southern Vermont Natural History Museum is looking for a new location in surrounding towns. The Skyline Restaurant is now owned by Pizza Palloozza and expects to spend a year renovating.

5. MES Day. Carol reported that no date has been set yet; it will be sometime in late May. Since Principal Francie Marbury is retiring next year, she will identify a teacher to take over coordinating the field day to help with the transition.

6. Trail Committee: Mike Purcell reported that in addition to regular maintenance (finish up projects, buy tools, benching, etc.), the larger project of the location of a cross-mountain trail branching off the Bishop Trail across the Meadow ESH cut over to the start of the Tower Trail needs to be addressed. Bob offered to host a trail committee meeting at his house to make plans.

Diana proposed selecting a day in July and a day in August as workdays to engage community involvement and build the volunteer base. Details can be discussed at the trail committee meeting.

Also, we need to buy and install map holders, size 8" x 11" on the kiosks .

7. Programs. Now that we have been expanding our media outreach for our programs, Diana reports that the publicity work involved is becoming time-consuming. She asked whether we need a program leader or committee that would coordinate both the events and the publicity. One suggestion was to trim the announcements, based on which sources are most productive. Another is to get info from Mike Clough on how he handles his promotions and see what efficiencies we can achieve. Nancy reported that Alison Turner has offered to do a wildflowers walk in April/May or May/June, depending on how the season develops.

For our summer indoor annual program, Diana suggested Mary Holland, author of the book and blog "Naturally Curious" (\$400.00) or Jeremy Davis who has a website and authored books on Lost Ski Areas. Each might draw a different audience. And we have our own two potential speakers on the board, Mike Clough and Patti Smith. We'll do more research on costs before deciding. Bob proposed that we attain an HMCA banner or flag to use at events.

8. ESH project: Diana has been writing grant applications to obtain the \$5,000 additional we need to hire the Youth Conservation Corp for one week to complete clearing of the Great White Way. She has submitted a grant to the Windham Foundation and is working on one to NEGEF.

The next phase in 2017-2018 will be the Practice Slope. It crosses a hiking trail and is most visible to snowmobilers- will we be attracting unwanted use? Diana feels we need to look closely this summer to analyze the issue, and involve the trail

committee and the ESH committee. Late April and early May will be the best times to see clearly.

9. HPC activities. Staley has upgraded his draft of the biodiversity goal paper; board members are asked to send him their comments by March 13.

Regarding the inquiry by an individual to renovate and lease the Benedict Cottage, Nancy reported that the Conservation Area easement excludes commercial activities not consonant with the purposes of the easement (Part II, para 1. And Part III, para 9.)

10. Other Business: Nancy reminded the board that our purchases are tax exempt, and if any costly items are being considered, she can provide a form to present to vendors.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Nancy Anderson