

**Minutes**  
**Hogback Preservation Commission**  
**Marlboro, Vermont**

The March 14, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Hogback Preservation Commission was called to order at 5:00 p.m. at the Marlboro Town Office by Mike Purcell, Chair.

***Members Present:*** Dave Elliot, Hal Himmelstein, Phil Howe, Ed Metcalfe, Mike Purcell.

***Others Attending:*** Staley McDermet, Vice-President, Hogback Mountain Conservation Association.

Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 11, 2016 was tabled (a copy of the original minutes for which revisions were suggested was unavailable for review). Minutes of the Special Meetings of January 27, 2016 and February 19, 2016 were approved as distributed.

***Officer and Committee Reports***

**Chair's Report**

Chair attended the March 21, 2016 Annual Meeting of the Hogback Mountain Conservation Association. See details of that meeting below.

**HMCA Report**

At HMCA's Annual Meeting current officers were re-elected for one-year terms: Diana Todd, President; Staley McDermet, Vice-President; Nancy Anderson, Secretary/Treasurer. The Board of Directors, serving one-year terms, are Bob Anderson, Nancy Anderson, Carol Berner, Jen Carr, Michael Clough, Patti Smith, Staley McDermet, Diana Todd, and Amanda Whiting.

The annual MES Day at Hogback is scheduled for May 24 (rain date June 1).

The trail committee will meet to consider plans for trail maintenance for the upcoming season and discuss 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. Instituting community trail work days in July and August will also be explored, the goal being to engage community involvement and build HMCA's volunteer base.

Speakers for HMCA's 2016 summer indoor annual program are presently being considered.

Additional funding beyond the \$1,000 commitment from the 2016 annual budget to fund completion of the ESH cut on the Great White Way is being pursued through various grant applications.

Vermont Land Trust's survey of invasive plants, conducted in late fall 2015, found very few invasive plants along the roadsides and at the trail heads in the Conservation Area.

HMCA has prepared a draft of a Biodiversity Inventory Goals document developed at the February 19, 2016 Special Meeting of HPC and HMCA and updated by Staley McDermet based on feedback from the HMCA board.

HMCA proposes that the reimbursement procedure for payment for expenditures from the Hogback Endowment Fund be modified as follows: HMCA will write checks for expenditures it incurs and request reimbursement from the Town Treasurer rather than the Town Treasurer paying these bills directly. HPC asked for clarification as to how the paper trail would be coordinated so that HPC could keep tabs on all expenditures that pertain to the consolidated annual budget. HMCA has indicated that HMCA Treasurer Nancy Anderson and HPC Chair Mike Purcell will meet with Town Treasurer Linda Peters to work out details of the reimbursement procedure and to explore alternatives to the current one-year CD maturity time frame.

### **Southern Vermont Natural History Museum Report**

The Museum is presently looking for a new location in surrounding towns.

### ***Old Business***

The Commission reviewed the draft "Biodiversity Inventory Goals" document submitted by HMCA and agreed to send any suggestions for revisions it may have to Staley McDermet who will integrate these into the draft. HPC and HMCA should continue to collaborate in drafting a Request for Proposal to be submitted to the Marlboro Select Board for its approval. The RFP would seek experienced professionals, who ideally have a background in conservation biology and knowledge of forestry, to execute a focused survey of the Conservation Area based on the guidelines included in the biodiversity inventory goals document and prepare a detailed report.

Ed Metcalfe surveyed the condition of various former ski area buildings and the Benedict Cottage, all on the grounds of the Conservation Area, and presented interior and exterior photographs of the buildings. His initial conclusions follow:

First Aid Building (south side Route 9)—not salvageable. Demolition cost not yet known.

Warming Hut/"Castle"—salvageable at an estimated cost of \$2,000 - \$2,400. Immediate need to re-shingle roof to prevent further water damage.

Benedict Cottage (north side route 9)—a proposal from a private party to rehabilitate the building in exchange for a two-year lease to operate the building as a woodworking shop. (Concern was raised by HMCA Board that such an arrangement would not be consonant with the Conservation Easement held by the Vermont Land Trust which prohibits commercial or industrial activities. HPC will review Conservation Easement guidelines and seek input from VLT before making a recommendation.)

Quonset Hut (off Rim-Run near Grant Road Trail Head)—not surveyed.

Suggestion was made that any former ski area artifacts with historical significance should be removed from all ski area buildings and stored in a central location prior to the commencing of any rehabilitation or demolition work.

Motion to recommend the expenditure of up to \$2,400 to rehabilitate the Warming Hut. **M/S/P 4-1.**

Motion to request that the Select Board amend the Conservation Area 2016 budget to include a line item for funds to rehabilitate the Warming Hut. **M/S/P 5-0.**

Grant Road snowmobile sign relocation--discussion tabled.

### ***New Business***

Election of Officers

Nomination of Mike Purcell for Chair. No other nominations. **M/S/P 5-0.**

Nomination of Lauren MacArthur for Vice-Chair. No other nominations. **M/S/P 5-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hal Himmelstein  
Secretary pro tempore