

Hogback Mountain Conservation Association

Minutes of the HMCA Board meeting Oct. 23, 2017, at the Marlboro Town Office

Present: Board members: Diana Todd, Carol Berner, Nancy Anderson, Bob Anderson, Staley McDermet, Amanda Whiting, and new member Jack Widness.

Absent: Michael Clough

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by President Diana Todd.

Board Membership

On motion made and seconded, Jack was elected to HMCA Board of Directors by acclamation. Jack's election is immediate, but he will fill a term starting in January 2018, ending in 2021.

Board of Directors' membership was then discussed. Bob will leave Board in January, 2018, due to term limits and his having completed his second term. Staley and Carol will reach term limits in January, 2019. A discussion followed regarding possible replacements, with some suggestions.

Previous Minutes

The Board accepted into the record the minutes of the July 24, 2017, meeting.

Diana then raised the question of, given the Board's policy of not deciding official business by email, whether or not the minutes could be approved by email. On motion made and seconded, it was unanimously voted that the Board's minutes could be approved by email vote.

Treasurer's Report

Nancy distributed and reviewed the Treasurer's report for the period 1/1/17 through 10/18/17. (See attached).

Diana questioned payment breakdown for Great White Way ESH work. Explanation was that GWW work totaled \$1,278. \$1,000 was taken from budgeted funds, \$278 came from the \$500 donation, and the \$222 balance (of the \$500 donation) has been restricted to future ESH expenses.

Diana opened a discussion on why donations are anonymous. Response was that a number of original donors had requested anonymity, although no recent donors had requested anonymity. It was decided to share donors' names among the Board, but not outside the Board, and to table the question of donors and fund raising. *Action Item:* A Working Group was formed (consisting of Bob, Nancy, and Jack) to review donors and fund raising and report back to the full Board at the January 2018 meeting.

On motion made and seconded, the Treasurer's Report (Financial Statements, HMCA LTD, 1/1/17 through 10/18/17) was unanimously approved.

Budget Planning

HMCA Consolidated Budget 2017 Analysis As of October 18, 2017 (attached) was reviewed.

It was questioned if additional tools were needed for trail work. None are needed now. Reviewed most items; no changes made. Jack suggested working with Vermont Youth Conservation Corps. He had worked with them in Wilmington. Response was that HCMA had tried to utilize them for ESH work, but was not successful. Will keep in mind for future.

Regarding budgeting for the Biodiversity Inventory, it was decided to wait until costs are better defined (until we have a contractor's bid) before going to the Select Board for funding approval.

On motion made and seconded, the budget request for \$3,600 was approved.

Guided Hikes & Events Planning

No one has volunteered to serve on a Programs Committee, so the Board will continue to plan programs.

Amanda will contact George Leoniak for a winter tracking program. She also noted that it is reasonable to repeat popular programs annually; there didn't need to always be new programs. Amanda encouraged partnering with another organization for programs and activities.

Numerous suggestions for programs were made. Allison Turner for plants/wildflowers; New England Wildflower Society (www.newenglandwild.org); insect walk; moonlight hike; geology.

Bob suggested making a list/database for people/groups that are potential speakers/hike leaders. *Action Item:* Bob agreed to start such a list and distribute it to other Board members for their additions.

The Board should be thinking about someone who might be a good speaker for HMCA's summer meeting. Ben Kilham, the "Bear Guy" (http://www.benkilham.com/Benkilham.com/HOME_PAGE.html) and "Bird Diva" (<http://www.birddiva.com>) were suggested. Co-sponsoring with other organizations is possible for programs, but not for the summer annual meeting.

Trails Online

It was discussed whether we should offer GPX and KMZ files of Hogback's trail system on our web site. Jack said that Alan Baker is willing to create the files. (For an example, see the web page Alan created for the Lake Raponda homeowner's association. <http://raponda.org/hiking.html>.) The Board endorsed the idea. Diana will pursue setting up the web page with Alan.

Jack attended a forum on Vermont's Outdoor Recreation Economy, initiated by the Governor. Their web site: <http://fpr.vermont.gov/VOREC>.

This forum encouraged bringing groups together to encourage active (as opposed to tourism which is often not active) outdoor recreational activities such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, and skiing, commercial and free recreational groups in an effort to boost Vermont's economy. Maybe create a web site coordinating all types of outdoor recreation.

This is an effort to engage with public and stakeholders in an attempt to:

1. Promote business opportunities.
2. Increase participation opportunities.
3. Increase quality of recreational resources.
4. Improve stewardship of recreational resources.

Discussion ensued about how far to go to engage or invite public use on Hogback, particularly regarding people outside the immediate community.

No action was taken.

Reminder: HPC meeting, Monday, November 13

At the meeting, a Vermont Land Trust representative will review the Conservation Easement. HMCA Board members are strongly encouraged to attend.

What does the conservation easement actually say? What does it mean? Will easement constraints affect how we can deal with the buildings or with implementing ideas for designated zones that might grow out of the Biodiversity Inventory results?

New Business

Received communication from a landowner in Wilmington whose land abuts the conservation area. This individual said that someone is operating ATVs on Hogback land. Anyone noticing problems should report incidents to the Town (Select Board) for enforcement.

Next meeting will be Monday, January 22, 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Staley McDermet