

## **HMCA Minutes 2/14/18**

In attendance: Diana Todd, Nancy Anderson, Bob Anderson, Michael Clough, Jack Widness, Carol Berner, Amanda Whiting, Phil Greenleaf  
Observing: Francie Marbury  
HPC Rep: Mike Purcell

### **Called To Order @ 7:00pm**

Opened with official approval of minutes from 10/23/17 meeting – distributed via e-mail prior to meeting

Elections:

Michael Clough announced his withdrawal from the board

Bob Anderson is also cycling off

Phil Greenleaf, Connor Hunt, and Diana Todd were elected to 3-year terms, expiring Jan 2021.

### **Full slate of Officers elected unanimously**

Diana Todd- President of the Board

Vice President- Staley McDermet

Treasurer Nancy Anderson

Secretary is vacant- members will take minutes in turn until a secretary is located and elected.

**Next Meeting scheduled for April 10** and changing meeting dates to Second Tuesdays is being considered

### **Nancy presented Treasurer's Report (attached)**

We have received 3 charitable donations- Pay Pal and 2 checks

### **Mike P. Presented HPC Update**

Quotes have been sought to remove the First Aid Building - should cost roughly \$5000 but Mike was unclear as to what that entailed (does it include foundation and clean up or just removing the structure???)

Also discussion has been ongoing re: adapting the management plan to increase the number of trails for skiing, rewording approved uses (more on that below). Diana asked for clarification of HMCA's role in the process- would HMCA have input on the revisions? Further discussion with HPC needed.

HPC has changed their charter from requiring nine members to having minimum and maximum numbers, with a majority being Marlboro residents.

### **Nancy Presented Fundraising Committee Report with input from Jack (attached)**

Need for fundraising is clear

Ensure income for events, activities, projects

The Committee is intending to revisit the investment strategies of the town's Hogback Endowment Fund (Current strategy generates minimal interest income)

Jack felt this was the #1 priority for the committee

After some more research re: options and legalities at the State level, changes will be proposed through HPC. State statutes appear to allow for alternative options.

Donation Boxes at trailheads are being considered

Michael Clough concerned about break-ins and theft

Diana and Mike Purcell had checked into the secure donation boxes used by Windmill Hill

Discussion went back and forth on cost-benefit analysis

Committee is also investigating Bequests and Living Trusts as a source of donations  
Amanda shared what the Brattleboro Art Museum does and encouraged the committee to just ask

General fundraising discussed- Campaigns should be project based, a Bioblitz could be connected to a fundraiser, Kiosks and Trail maps could include advertising for HMCA and donation requests

### **Carol Presented an Education Update**

New Principal at MES is conceptually on board for Hogback Day; 2018 detailed planning has not yet started

### **Bob will continue to head up work at the Bishop Site**

Clean-up day planned for the spring

He would like some more signage at the site

Future Projects could include

- Cleaning up House #1 site

- Exploration of area to find more buildings, stone walls, etc

- Mapping the entire area

### **Mike Purcell Presented Trail Committee Report**

- .HPC is working on adapting the Management Plan for the Conservation Area to include more in-depth guidelines for maintenance, philosophy and trail development

- .Skiers are reporting lots of feedback re: backcountry skiing

- .HPC is considering allowing clearing of non-ESH trails and lift lines for skiers - current plan limits number of ski trails to 3

- .Would like to see HMCA develop trail work handbook/protocols

- .Phil raised liability issue

  - Jack suggested that it was an HPC issue and out of HMCAs purview

  - Mike P will bring it up with the town and HPC

  - Liability concerns continued to come up around specific wording and activities

    - Jack suggested using non-motorized use as a blanket term for skiing, snowboarding, etc. with exceptions for VAST trail, National Grid access and work crews and emergency access.

- Concerns raised re: sensitive wildlife areas

  - HPC is not suggesting development of North Side

  - Generally agreed that the Biodiversity Inventory needs to be done soon to help address these concerns in an informed manner

### **We then discussed progress towards Biodiversity Inventory and RFP (docs attached)**

- Mike P explained that HPC is seeking a person or group to conduct the inventory that fits HPC/HMCA's priorities and interest areas best

- Jack felt that we needed a strategic plan to define what those priorities are

- It was generally felt that the Inventory was essential in order to proceed with other projects (i.e. Management Plan revisions)

- Bob moved to send out RFP- unanimously accepted

### **Programs and Events**

Diana discussed cumbersome process as it is and suggested looser criteria for approving co-sponsored programs with other organizations on the Conservation Area (Currently HMCA must meet face-to-face, the board must vote to approve). Mike Clough moved to accept the looser format (see below)

Overall support to form a Program committee- Jack expressed interest, but pushed final decision to April meeting

Discussed specifics of current applicants- especially entomologists who want to camp overnight

#### Summer Meeting

3 possible choices presented:

Moose and Ticks – Scott Darling VTF&W- FREE

Bears with Ben Kilham - \$470

Bird or Birding related topic from Bridget Butler the Bird Diva \$400-\$500

Discussed possibilities of sharing Butler with Audubon for a second program and reducing costs.

Discussed possibilities of kids programs with all presenters

Diana posed the “Why are we doing this?” question to help decide - to build goodwill in the community towards Hogback

Settled on Scott Darling with the intent to discuss bringing in a second kids and families focused program at another date

Amanda is going to schedule George Leoniak for a tracking program and Nancy will arrange a birding walk and a wildflower event.

Adjourned 9:07 p.m.

Recorded by Mike Clough

Voted policy as follows:

“Cosponsoring with Other Organizations Programs Held on Hogback Mountain Conservation Area:

‘For programs held at Hogback on conservation area lands, co-sponsoring with other organizations is permitted without needing HMCA Board approval as long as the financial obligation for HMCA does not exceed the standard stipend we offer for event leaders (\$75 per event for 2018). Co-sponsored events held off-site may also be organized without Board approval as long as no financial commitment is required by HMCA. If financial support beyond these levels is required as part of co-sponsorship, then formal Board consideration and approval must be sought. If Board members (or, when we get one, a Program Committee) planning events/programs have any doubts about the suitability of co-sponsoring with any organization, they should seek input from the Board. “

(Minutes were approved via email vote by Nancy Anderson, Carol Berner, Phil Greenleaf, Diana Todd, Amanda Whiting, and Jack Widness.)