

Regular Meeting of the Hogback Management Plan Update Committee
7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 24, 2023
Town Office, Marlboro, Vermont and via Zoom

Minutes

Attendees:

- HMPUC Members
 - In person: Diana Todd (chair), Mike Purcell
 - via Zoom: Eric Slayton, Pieter Van Loon, Amanda Whiting
- Guests (all via Zoom)
 - Jennifer Garrett, Vermont Land Trust
 - Bob Anderson, Nancy Anderson, Lou Tognan

Call to order: 7:05 pm

1. Welcome and introductions
 - a. Why are we updating the Management Plan (MP)?
 - i. The existing MP was drafted circa 2010 when the conservation area (CA) was first created, and has been only lightly modified since then. In 2018-2019, a Biodiversity Inventory was conducted which gives much more information than was previously available about whether certain parts of the CA deserve special treatment. New uses have arisen since the original plan was drafted, such as e-bikes and drones, and gaps in the existing plan, such as having no mention of invasive species, have been noted.
 - b. review roles of groups that will be involved in the project
 - i. The HMPUC committee will create a draft.
 - ii. The Hogback Preservation Committee (HPC), parent body of HMPUC, will be responsible for moving the draft through final review, revision, approval and adoption. HMPUC will report their progress to HPC at regular HPC meetings.
 - iii. HMPUC will inform the Hogback Mountain Conservation Association (HMCA), a non-governmental volunteer organization, about progress on the draft at regular HMCA meetings.
 - iv. The Selectboard will approve and adopt the plan on behalf of the town.
 - v. The Vermont Land Trust (VLT) and Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB), co-holders of the conservation easement on the property, will review and approve the plan. See more detail in item 2 below.
2. Overview of the update process
 - a. Guest presenter, Jennifer Garrett of Vermont Land Trust (VLT)
 - i. Requirements in the Conservation Easement
 1. A management plan (MP) is required by the conservation easement (CE).
 - a. See section I.B. of the CE for a list of minimum requirements
 - b. Beyond that, there is no mandated format or content requirements, but the MP has to be consistent with the CE
 - c. The MP must be developed with opportunity for public input. Input can be either in the early phase of collecting

- i. We need a quorum in order to hold a meeting. If not enough members show up for any given meeting, we will get on the phone and try to track people down until we have a quorum. If members are consistently unable to attend, they may be asked to leave the committee.
 - ii. If an item is not on the agenda, it will not be discussed. We can collect new ideas for topics, but they will only be discussed in detail at a future meeting, after they have been included in a warned agenda.
 - b. committee members will do specific tasks between meetings (research, writing) and report back at the next meeting
 - c. hold meetings to share progress
 - i. TIME CHANGE – To enable more full participation by several members, the meeting time is henceforth shifted to 7:30-9:00 pm.
 - ii. We will endeavor to reach consensus on all topics via discussion, but if a decision by vote is needed to keep the work moving forward, a simple majority of those members present will carry the motion.
 - d. If someone not currently on the HMPUC asks to join the committee, then-current members who are present at the meeting when the application is discussed will vote whether or not to accept the offer, considering the particular skills and knowledge the person could bring to the project.
- 4. Assignments for next meeting
 - a. everyone – review existing Management Plan and conservation easement
 - b. each member to review management plan from one other town
 - c. each member to review a Case Study from another town
 - d. start thinking about the public survey
 - i. what apps are available for online surveys?
 - ii. what questions should be asked?
 - e. See “assignments” handout for details of who will review what.
- 5. Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.

HMPUC

2023_05_24 meeting handout

Assignments for the next meeting – June 14, 2023

Documents listed below can be found in the shared Google Drive “HMPUC file cabinet”

1. Review Key Three docs
 - a. existing Management Plan
 - b. Conservation Easement
 - c. Biodiversity Inventory
2. Review a Management Plan from another town
 - a. The big picture – are there any interesting concepts we could consider for Hogback?
Example: zones.
 - b. What level of detail is in the plan?
 - c. Did they do a survey? What questions did they ask?
 - d. Are there topics they cover that we don't mention?
 - e. How do they address enforcement of their rules?
 - f. Do they use multi-purpose trails or single-use trails?
3. Review a Case Study from VLT materials
4. Start thinking about the public survey
 - a. software to use
 - b. how to distribute and collect paper versions
 - c. outreach to use
 - d. questions to ask

Town/ Forest Name	who will review it
Bolton/ Preston Pond	Sarah
Barre	Diana
Richmond/ Andrews Forest	Amanda
Stowe/ Sterling Forest	Mike
Waitsfield/ Scrag Forest	Christine
West Windsor/ Ascutney	Pieter
Williston/ Mud Pond	Eric

Town Case Study	who will review it
Barre	Eric
Bennington	Christine
Canaan	Amanda
Middlesex	Mike
Mills Riverside	Diana
Waitsfield	Sarah