

Regular Meeting of the Hogback Preservation Commission
5 p.m. Monday, July 10, 2023
Zoom Call Meeting Online & In Person

Minutes

Call to Order: 5:00pm

Attendees: Mike Purcell, Ed Metcalfe, Christine Colella, Diana Todd, Nancy Anderson, Jack Widness, Mike Garber (VAST)

Review of Agenda

Approval of regular meeting minutes: Will review at the next regular meeting in September.

Chair's Report

- **Nat'l Grid** – town pay ½ gate cost. \$8600 for road repairs – one time payment. Paying 13K+/-year with 4% increase for 10 years with review (see report from Selectboard. Have not signed but have agreed to).
 - Comment: Annual maintenance of trails for \$1000/year. This should be set aside for Hogback to be kept and accumulated for maintenance on trails only and not for the general fund.

- **Castle** – Nothing new to report. No painting can be done due to weather.

HMCA Report – see report sent forwarded by Jack Widness

SVNHM Report – meet the new Director by invitation at Metcalfe's. Very excited to have them on board. About to pour pad for the pavilion!

Old Business

- Organizations Merger – no updates as of this meeting
- Management Plan Update – 3/5 HPC members on committee. 3 meetings so far. Covered Roles.
 - Hogback Management Plan Management Committee will create a draft plan.
 - Collecting ideas and plans for creation of the draft
 - Experts in community will assist with draft
 - Looking for Public Input – need a rough draft and framework prior to looking for public input
 - HPC will shepherd through approvals and adoptions of draft – HPC invited for input.
 - Approval Process: Selectboard, VT Land Trust, and VT Housing and Conservation Board as they jointly hold the easement.

Vast & Quonset Hut rehab & use – Mike Garber representing VAST. (Note: all comments below are paraphrased)

- Meeting this Thursday with the Marlboro Selectboard to discuss the event. An application has been submitted for Hogback use. VAST application has requested 3 weekends (MLK and 2 weekends after rain dates only) for the BBQ.
- Presently, there is a metal culvert (large) secured with doors covering it. Repairs to bridge on other side of Rte 9 and looking to use a corrugated new culvert replacement.
- While machine is there repairing the culvert (24”), what can VAST do to repair the Quonset Hut.
- VAST group has cleaned up around the Quonset hut.
- Dumpster from Grant Rd., disassemble concession stand of the Quonset hut. “Get rid of the garbage” and secure the building.
- Secure the Quonset hut by reframing windows and adding doors.
- By Mid-January – have a “ride in” BBQ (approx. 100 snowmobiles, MLK weekend). Commission decides if locked or unlocked.
- Commission Questions:
 - Can you ensure that you will be picking up all debris? Ans: Will be sure all debris is cleaned up.
 - How will you be marking off and “roping” ski/hiking trails closed to snowmobiles? Ans: Will be sure to communicate with skiers and hikers to be sure proper signage is in place.
 - What are your plans for a Port-a-potty? Ans: Use a Port-a-potty on Grant Rd.
 - Can you report and check on the building in the winter months? Ans: VAST can keep an eye on the building.
 - 50 retractables for Tbars. Depending on the shape, what can we do with them? Ans: Let’s see if Bratt Ski Slope can use them (Ed Metcalfe)
 - Does the event depend on the Quonset Hut being repaired? Ans: Event has nothing to do with the Quonset Hut repair.
- Public Comment/Questions:
 - When tearing down a portion of the building, what is left and what will stay intact? Has a profession reviewed this? Ans: If you leave it the way it is, it will fall down. Trying to save something, but if it comes down in the process, it was meant to come down. What we are proposing to take down was an “add on” to the Quonset Hut.
 - What about the furnace and bathrooms? Ans: Furnace will stay put. Bathrooms will be boarded up. VAST will take out what they can from the bathrooms (toilets and broken mirrors)
 - There are some delicate areas on an environmental standpoint. The area should be reviewed and marked off so there is no damage via demolition and snowmobile use. Concern is with the use of the property with 100 snowmobiles coming from the areas. Ans: There is NO off-trail riding. We can look at this and mark off. New signage for NO off-trail riding. With regard to the event, machines will park on the side of the trail.
 - BBQ concerns with so many sleds. Ans: Law enforcement will be involved. Sleds will come and go, not necessarily all together. However,

there will be 50-60 sleds there during the peak time during the 4 hour event.

- What are the VAST requirements for minimum snow cover? Ans: Season from 12/15 – 4/15. Open and close trails at a moment's notice. Know when to close the trails and will do so if there is thin cover. We will not set out our groomers unless there is a foot of snow for the snow machines. If they don't go out, the event will not occur.
- Commission members would like to look at the Quonset Hut and culvert prior to making a decision. Ans: VAST concurs and hopes that someone from the Selectboard will come as well.
- Selectboard Meeting: A member of the HPC will be at Thursday's Selectboard meeting to relay concerns and see if the permit if/when approved contains verbiage outlining snowmobile and event limits (snow cover, parking, no entry, etc...)
- Next Steps: Commission will review and convene. Have the Town Road Crew review to provide and be sure the culvert is appropriately sized.
- Moving forward: Application/permit should have been sent to HPC and HMCA for review prior to going to the Selectboard for comment.

First Aid Building removal – Presently, investigating another opportunity to qualify that as a “brown field” project for potential grant funding. Remove, remediate, and landscape.

New Business

Maps: Provide map of conservation area to Metcalf for use in a kiosk he is constructing.

To create a new map for commercial purposes, must use the map data for a Metcalf's kiosk (commercial buildings will be added for this map). There was no quorum for a vote and this vote will be added to a special meeting in August. This is more of a formality as the policy in place was made 10+ years ago and the trail data can be farmed from the web.

Adjournment: 6:37pm