

**Regular Meeting of the Hogback Management Plan Update Committee**  
**7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Mar 20, 2024**  
**via Zoom**

**Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm. Participation was via Zoom only due to predicted bad driving conditions (snow).

Present: Diana Todd, Pieter Van Loon, Eric Slayton, Amanda Whiting

1. Preliminaries
  - a. Secretary to take minutes - Pieter
  - b. Zoom recording – Diana started the recording. The meeting is recorded and available to anyone wishing to review the discussion. Please contact the town office or Diana Todd, chair of the committee, for access to the recording.
2. Noted for the record that there was no meeting on Feb 28, 2024 due to lack of a quorum.
3. Unanimously approved minutes of the previous regular meeting (Feb 14, 2024) and our previous special meeting (Mar 10, 2024).
4. No new topics have come up to the master list of issues to consider during the update. Since this has been the case for a number of meetings, this will no longer be a standing part of the agenda. If a member thinks of something to add to the list, they should alert Diana and she will add it back to the next agenda.
5. Reviewed the first draft of the Forest Management section. Decided that the Forest Management Plan (FMP) will be added to the Management Plan (MP) as an appendix. A question came up as to who will ensure the prescriptions called for in the FMP are carried out. It will be up to the HPC to get the ball rolling if the county forester doesn't raise it first.
6. We reviewed one previously reviewed section.
  - a. e-bikes – When the first draft was reviewed, it was decided that e-bikes would not be allowed. After a conversation with the HPC, who encouraged reconsideration, Diana went to VLT to see what they allow. Class 1 bikes are allowed on VLT-conserved lands. Given the difficulty determining what is a class 1 bike and what is a higher class e-bike, it was decided to keep the prohibition in place.
7. We next reviewed newly drafted sections,
  - a. Access, trailheads, and parking - We discussed whether it made sense to propose a new parking area in this plan. There is a chance to develop parking at the site of the first aid station after that building is torn down. Given the difficulties and safety issues associated with parking directly off Route 9 and the existence of an enormous parking area already, we decided not to pursue new parking in this plan.
8. Our next discussion was ideas for seeking public input. Previously, we talked about doing a survey and holding public meetings. We batted around ideas for a survey and how to promote it. We agree that the survey should be short and designed to give us direct feedback on those sections of the plan that we think most “controversial.” There is also a desire to have a public meeting that allows us to present the information, photos, maps, etc. If no committee member wants to be the facilitator, we could ask Lucy Gratwick if she would be willing to take on that role. Amanda suggested we hold one public meeting out on the land and all agreed that was a good idea. Another suggestion was to make the final question of the survey be something along

the lines of “Share with us your favorite memory of being on Hogback” as a way to engender a feeling of connection to the property and get additional feedback on what is important to folks.

9. Diana will update the sections we have discussed and send them back out for our review along with the list of issues to be addressed in the plan.
10. At the next meeting we will begin crafting questions to put on the survey.
11. Adjourned at 8:30