

Regular Meeting of the Hogback Management Plan Update Committee
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 18, 2024
Town Office, Marlboro, Vermont and via Zoom

D R A F T
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:46 pm.

Present: in person, Diana Todd; via Zoom, Eric Slayton, Pieter Van Loon

1. Preliminaries
 - a. choose a secretary to take minutes – Diana
 - b. choose a Zoom host – Diana
 - c. start Zoom recording
2. Minutes of the previous meeting (July 10, 2024) were approved.
3. Note for the record that there was not a quorum for the July 24, 2024 meeting, therefore no official meeting was held. Ed Metcalfe of the HPC and Nancy Anderson of the HMCA used the opportunity to submit verbal comments on the draft Plan, which have been summarized and retained for reference during the upcoming public comment period.
4. Revised and new material in the draft Management Plan dated Sept 18, 2024 was reviewed and approved. These revisions and additions were generated in response to some of the review comments received from HPC, HMCA, and VLT – those that identified items that needed clarification or additional factual background (e.g. listing all the legal easements). Note that other comments received from these groups will be discussed and resolved during the same process where we respond to comments received from the public.
 - a. Topics in the draft plan that had revisions or additions included:
 - i. deeded easements for public passage, parking, wells, septic etc.
 - ii. special use permits
 - iii. trapping
 - iv. the 100-mile view
 - v. maps: buildings and trail concentration
 - b. We agreed that with these revisions and additions, the draft Plan is now ready for public review.
5. The list of proposed appendices to the Plan was reviewed.
 - a. We agreed that when long appendices are added to a document, the resulting massive file or printed document can make potential readers reluctant to even begin looking through it. It may be preferable to reference some documents as stand-alone items rather than bundling them with the Plan as an appendix.
 - b. We agreed to explore using active links in the digital version of the final Management Plan that could take digital readers directly to stand-alone documents.
 - c. We agreed the Biodiversity Inventory and the HMCA Invasives Committee reports should be stand-alone documents rather than appendices. The conservation easement, the HPC Rules of Procedure, a copy of the Hogback-related portion of the Facility Use Agreement application, and the Forest Management Plan (when it is adopted) should be included as appendices.
6. Public outreach efforts were planned.

- a. We will try to schedule the outreach efforts in October. The indoor presentation will be on a Wednesday evening that works for all the key players. The walk-and-talk on the mountain will ideally be on a weekend day prior to the evening meeting.
 - b. We need to seek input from more than just Marlboro residents. We will use the following methods to try to reach a broad swath of users of Hogback:
 - i. email announcement to HMCA's 400+ email distribution list
 - ii. Front Porch Forum postings in Marlboro and as many surrounding towns as we can access
 - iii. posters on the kiosks at the trailheads
 - c. At a previous meeting we had decided that the indoor meeting should be in-person only, because the technical challenges of trying to do a hybrid meeting with a PowerPoint presentation and numerous comments from a potentially large audience, both in-person and via Zoom, seemed daunting. However, both Forrest (Town Clerk) and Nick (Town Administrator) have said that they have held many hybrid meetings and that the technical challenges aren't serious enough to outweigh the benefits of having a hybrid meeting. Diana will explore this further with Forrest and Nick with the goal of using a hybrid meeting. But if after discussing this with Forrest and Nick and with Trey at the Community Center (where the meeting will be held) Diana doesn't feel we have enough people with the necessary technical skills to adequately run a hybrid meeting we will revert to our original plan of in-person only.
 - d. We will need a way to document the meeting.
 - i. Diana will continue to explore recruiting someone from outside the committee to take minutes.
 - ii. If we do a hybrid meeting, the Zoom record would provide a backup for capturing the public comments.
 - e. Diana will start a spreadsheet or other document to record all the comments we receive on the draft.
7. The next HMPUC committee meeting will be Oct 2, with the primary agenda item being planning the public outreach efforts.
 8. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.

List of documents currently proposed as Appendices in the draft Management Plan

1. the conservation easement
2. Biodiversity Inventory
3. HPC Rules of Procedure
4. application form for Facility Use Agreement for Hogback
5. HMCA Invasives Committee report
6. future appendix: Forest Management Plan (2026)