

Regular Meeting of the Hogback Management Plan Update Committee
7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct 2, 2024
Town Office, Marlboro, Vermont and via Zoom

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm.

Present: in person, Diana Todd; via Zoom, Mike Purcell, 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 (Sept 18, 2024) were approved.
3. Public outreach efforts were planned.
 - a. General concept – The goal is to share the draft with the public and listen to public reactions. Sharing information about the reasons behind choices made by the committee is appropriate, as is making modest efforts to persuade people who disagree with a recommendation.
 - b. Both of the public outreach meetings will be considered committee meetings and thus will have agendas and minutes posted using Open Meeting protocols.
 - c. We should have sign-in sheets at both public meetings so that we can record who attended.
 - d. Promo to make people aware of the meetings will be aimed not only at Marlboro, but also surrounding towns and Windham County using Front Porch Forum. HMCA has offered to forward info about the meetings to local conservation commissions in surrounding towns. Direct emails have been sent to HMCA's email list of about 500 people, which includes many out-of-state fans of Hogback. Announcements have been posted on the trailhead kiosks in the conservation area, and in the Brattleboro and Wilmington libraries. Diana will look into posting a flyer at the Marlboro Community Center. Initial announcements have already gone out. There will be reminder announcements sent out about the Oct 12 walk, and after that event, primary and reminder announcements about the Oct 23 evening meeting.
 - e. Oct 12, 10:00 am, walk in the woods format. This meeting will focus on forestry, recreation, and trails issues. If attendees want to bring up other topics, we can also discuss those. We will walk the White's Loop – MES trails on the north side. Pieter and Diana will lead the discussions. Other committee members should try to take notes so that we capture all of the public comments. Mike will look into the idea of capturing an audio recording of the meeting on his phone.
 - f. Oct 23, 7:30 pm, Marlboro Community Center, hybrid Zoom/in-person format.
 - i. Have 10 paper copies of the draft plan available for the audience.
 - ii. Nick Morgan, town administrator, has offered to attend and help with technical issues.
 - iii. The Zoom recording will serve as the note-taker. Minutes and the list of public comments will be derived from review of the recording. Committee members should consider taking notes in case there is a problem with the recording.

- iv. Committee members should plan to arrive by 7:00 in order to help with setup and system testing.
 - v. Diana will present the PowerPoint overview already previewed by the committee at the July 10 meeting, with minor additions based on input at subsequent committee meetings.
 - vi. Lucy Gratwick has agreed to serve as moderator, and will lead the discussion after the PowerPoint presentation.
4. Regular committee meetings will resume in November (Nov 6 and Nov 20). The focus will be to consider the public comments and to finalize the draft plan.
- a. Diana will create a spreadsheet or table of public comments from all sources, grouped by topic. A section will be added for recording the resolution of the comments. This can become an appendix to the final plan.
 - b. Other details of finalizing the plan need to be worked out, for example, a section describing the update process, and possibly a section mentioning aspects of the previous plan that have been intentionally deleted.
 - c. Our goal will be to finalize the draft Management Plan by the end of November.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.