

**Special Meeting of the Hogback Preservation Commission**  
**5 p.m. Monday, March 10, 2025**  
**Zoom Call Meeting Online & In Person**

**Minutes**

Abbreviations used:

DVSJ = Deerfield Valley Stump Jumpers

FUA = Facility Use Agreement

HMCA = Hogback Mountain Conservation Association

HPC = Hogback Preservation Commission

SB = Select Board

Present:

In person: Mike Purcell (Chair)

Via Zoom: Committee Members: Sarah Grant, Diana Todd; Others: Nancy Anderson (HMCA Treasurer), joined at about 5:35 pm.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:27 pm.
2. The Agenda was reviewed . The minutes of the previous meeting, a Special Meeting held on Feb 4, 2025, were reviewed and approved. The draft minutes of the last meeting prior to the Special Meeting will be re-distributed to the HPC for review and approval at the May HPC meeting.
3. Election of Officers: The following slate of candidates were nominated and unanimously elected: Chair, Mike Purcell; Vice-chair, Ed Metcalfe; Secretary, Diana Todd.
4. Adoption of Rules of Procedure: It was noted that the Rules of Procedure had been reviewed and updated as part of the Management Plan update process, and had been formally approved and adopted at the Feb 4, 2025 Special Meeting of the HPC.
5. Reports were heard and discussed.
  - a. Chairman's Report
    - i. The Select Board included a \$500 line item in the budget to fund HPC work. The budget was approved by the town in March 2025. HPC will report on how the money was used in their normal November budget-related report to the SB.
    - ii. The voters of the town also approved a special request for \$40,000 to fund the demolition of the First Aid building. The SB has asked for at least three bids on the project. Mike will work on this.
    - iii. Repairs to the Castle were completed in late fall, including replacing plexiglass in the windows and painting over graffiti, among other things. If possible, someone from the HPC or the HMCA Board should inspect

- the Castle before the hiking season starts to see if any new graffiti or other vandalism occurred during ski season.
- iv. The Museum is exploring the possibility of building a new building in the big parking lot on the north side of Route 9, on land currently owned by Ed Metcalfe. A civil engineering firm was hired to give a preliminary assessment of whether the parcel could hold a septic system. A first look suggests that it would be possible, but further tests are needed after the ground thaws to confirm. The Museum has created a Task Force to further explore the idea of building a new building.
- b. HMCA reports: HMCA presented Activity Updates for 2024 and the first two months of 2025, as well as financial information about the HMCA Endowment Budget. Items that were discussed further included:
    - i. HMCA was under the impression that it needed to update the Hogback Facility Use Agreement application. Diana pointed out that the application had already been updated to include all changes required by the new Management Plan, and the updated application had been presented as an appendix in the final draft of the Plan. Diana will send a stand-alone Word file of the updated application to Nancy Anderson for HMCA use in updating the website.
    - ii. Anticipating the need for timely responses to FUA requests, HMCA suggested that HPC create an email account that can be accessed by at least two HPC members, rather than relying on the personal email address of the HPC Chair for formal communications. Diana will look into this. If a free system that works well is found, Diana is to set up the account. If no free system seems available, Diana will collect info on paid accounts for discussion at the next meeting.
    - iii. HMCA was unable to have a representative attend the DVSI ride-in BBQ at the Quonset Hut which was held in February. However, Diana attended, and reported that the snowmobile club did a very good job with roping off potentially sensitive areas, parking, cooking, trash, a campfire in a container system, and other aspects covered by the FUA. The Vermont State Police sent two officers to the event. They weren't there while Diana was at the event, but she did see them riding in while she was skiing out, and stopped to chat with them.
  - c. Natural History Museum: No report.
- 6. Prior to adjournment, the date of future meetings was discussed. Both Mike and Diana have regular commitments on Monday nights that makes it hard for them to attend the Monday HPC meetings. Additionally, Diana has conflicts on Wednesdays from November through March. Any new date chosen can't conflict with meetings of other town boards and committees. The three HPC members present all agreed that meeting on the first Thursday of the month (in Jan, Mar, May, July, Sept, and Nov) worked for them. The other members (Ed and John) will be asked whether that change works for them, and if it does, the change will be made. The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 pm.