

Minutes of Regular Meeting of the Hogback Preservation Commission
5 p.m. Thursday, January 15, 2026
Zoom Call Meeting Online & In Person
Marlboro Town Office

D R A F T

Abbreviations used:

FUA = Facility Use Agreement

HMCA = Hogback Mountain Conservation Association

HPC = Hogback Preservation Commission

MP = Management Plan

SB = Select Board

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm. Attendees were unable to get the Zoom portion of the meeting started, so the meeting proceeded without Zoom coverage.
2. Present: HPC members Mike Purcell, Sarah Fisher, Diana Todd. Non-member David Clift.
3. The minutes of previous meeting (Nov 6, 2025) were approved.
4. Officer and committee reports
 - a. Chair's report – Diana Todd reported that she attended the Dec 11, 2025 SB meeting on behalf of Chair Mike Purcell to present the FUA request from Rootstock Racing that HPC had approved at their Nov 6 meeting, and to work out the details of the “provisional” status that had been recommended by HMCA. The SB approved the provisional FUA, and delegated HPC to remove the provisional aspect of the FUA permission if no significant changes to the application are needed once Rootstock Racing visits the site and works out the details of their event.
 - b. HMCA report – Nancy Anderson had reported by email shortly prior to the meeting that HMCA had nothing of significance to report.
 - c. Facility Use Agreement working group report and recommendation
 - i. The revised language in the Hogback FUA application form that had been crafted by the joint HPC/HMCA working group was reviewed and approved. The revisions made no changes to allowed/disallowed activities, only to the administrative process of applying for a FUA.
 - ii. It was moved and approved that
 1. The text of Section 5.4.3 of the Management Plan (The Permitting Process) be replaced by the revised language in the FUA application, so that both documents present the same process and requirements.
 2. That HPC present the revised FUA application, the proposed MP revision and the reason for the revision to both HMCA and the Vermont Land Trust. If both agree to the proposed revision, HPC will present the revised MP to the SB for final approval.
5. Old business

- a. Management Plan update – Updates on major actions called for in the updated MP were reviewed.
 - i. Develop Forest Inventory and Forest Management Plan – County Forester Sam Schneski, who is leading the effort to develop the forest inventory, has not yet started the work and does not have a definite start date for the effort.
 - ii. Dismantle Benedict Cottage – Possible funding mechanisms were discussed, including a one-time line item in the town budget, obtaining a grant(s), or having the town establish a capital account that is funded with modest amounts each year until adequate funds are available for the project. HPC members will reach out informally to people they know who are knowledgeable about potential grant sources for ideas. After Town Meeting season is over, HPC will ask for time at a SB meeting to discuss the idea of establishing a capital account to fund the Benedict Cottage removal and other significant projects that will arise as time goes on.
- b. Proposed new trail linking HMCA to Pool Nature Center. Mike reported that the HMCA Trail Committee had hiked the route of the proposed trail with John Greene (representing the Pool Nature Center). It crosses conservation area land for only a short stretch, connecting the area near the leaching field off the Rim Run trail to land owned by John Greenberg. Further discussion was tabled because HPC has not yet received the formal request to create the trail, which HMCA must review prior to submission to HPC.

6. New business

- a. Annual budget. It was noted that none of last year's \$500 fund was used. Potential small projects that might need funding in 2026 were discussed, with examples of past projects given: a) repairs to the Castle, and b) painting over graffiti. Several potential large projects (which would require thousands or tens of thousands of dollars), such as eventual removal of the ski lift cables and removal or replacement of the wood decking on the abandoned T-bar lift bridge were discussed. It was noted that a capital fund would be a suitable method for funding projects of that magnitude. No definite needs for small amounts of funds in 2026 were identified.
- b. Recruitment of new HPC members was reviewed. David Clift (Marlboro resident) expressed interest in serving on the HPC. Mike will contact the SB and recommend that they appoint David to the commission.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 pm.