

Boyce Hill Town Forest Steering Committee
10/7/20 - 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Minutes

NOTES

I. Administrative

A. Approval of 9/21/20 Minutes: Chuck made a motion to approve minutes from 9/21/20. Sally seconded. No further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.

B. Public Input (5 minutes)

II. Pond embankment

A. Field visit report: Woody, Lisa and Mike Jordan met to discuss care of pond and the need to remove saplings from the embankment.

B. Next steps:

- A small group of select volunteers will need to remove larger trees which require chainsaws and then a group of volunteers with hand saws can remove the smaller parts on the remainder.
- **Action Item: Determine liability of volunteers doing chainsaw work**
 - Ky will contact Max Popowicz regarding chainsaw work. Certificate of Insurance naming town?
 - Volunteer liability form: run by Patti
- Brush work on bank is not urgent, but can be done over time.
- Debris: scientific information regarding if mulch is effective for managing phragmites: chips? **Action Item: Get advice on best management practices to contain and reduce.**
- Brush piles are good wildlife habitat.
- Vernal pool: vegetation should not be removed from that area. Needs to be kept shaded and should have vegetation buffer.
- **Action Item: Grace: determine natural resources best practices to advise on the best course of action in clearing brush.**

III. Mowing

A. Schedule field visit to discuss areas to be mowed this year

B. Review information SC members collected

1. 'Unrecoverable' definition, and how to spot it
2. Mower specifications: Select Board is aware that Sugarbush is under scrutiny because of Act 250 and their equipment is likely not going to damage.
3. Individuals to do mowing
 - Warren Harrod who did the mowing on the SB mower. He has his own equipment and is \$60/hour
 - Jeremy Meers: Rob Ford Meadows in Granville. Manage on a rotational basis for open land. Meadow and shrubland. He could come help us understand long term management needs.

- Find a mower and have them visit the site to help determine what is possible

4. Funding

C. To-Dos

- **Schedule a field meeting to determine where we need to mow and then arrange to consult with a mower to determine if what we want is possible.**
- **Lisa will send out dates to determine if Thursday 10/15 or Friday 10/16 is better**

IV. Management Planning

A. Organizing the Committee

1. Process for getting minutes & agenda posted
 - Rotating note taker. Notes go to Lisa to post once edited
2. How to share files among ourselves?
 - Non-public working file is useful
 - **Action Item: Karrie, Corrie and Pete will work on developing an information sharing structure.**
3. How to decide when to come together and when to proceed solo?
4. How to organize the work plan and individual to-dos?

B. Sharing What We're Learning with the Community

1. Need to create a plan for communications and community education a) Q&A 2-Page Document
 - Need a communications plan: **Action Item: Pete will take lead on establishing this plan**
2. What "learning" is useful to share with the public?
 - How do we catalogue and record public input in a meaningful way
3. Need to create a public record. How?
4. How to share info? Various email lists? Field walks? Zoom presentations? Winter series?

C. Public Input

1. How to record/share what's already come in?
 - Create a clear mode of input
 - Questionnaire
 - Tabling on property and in public venues once we have something to react to
2. How to track and record moving forward?
3. Becoming familiar with Rec Planning Toolkit. In what ways is it helpful? In what ways might we want to diverge?
4. Setting up opportunities for engagement/input
5. Develop long-term management input/engagement process
6. Generating a list of stakeholders

D. Communicating with the Public

1. Avenues - BHTF E-list, Town E-list, FPF, VR
2. Regular updates, Press releases,

E. Fundraising

1. What for, where from, how?

V. Next Immediate Issues

- Put on "to-do" list

A. Commercial Use

- Conservation easement does not allow commercial use without special use permit. Consult conservation partners regarding precedents.

a. Issues to-date

- Requests to date

- Horses

- Sugar taps - uncertainty regarding boundary.

- Neighbor allows people to use his land. Has unknowingly tapped this land.
- Also taps area with sensitive habitat value. ATV to manage crossing sensitive wetland. Ask him not to tap the trees in the wetland until we have a special use plan and then run his use through it.
- Grandfather? Use doesn't conflict as long as there is no damage to the wetland.

b. Special Use Permit process

- Waiting for longer term management plan before allowing it
- Permits for allowed use
- Special use approval process

B. Private Property Interaction

a. Trails from/to BHTF

b. Property boundary question

- Lisa will finalize boundary questions.