

**Boyce Hill Steering Committee**  
**Minutes**  
**June 16, 2021**

**Present:** Sally Dwyer, Chuck Martel, Corrie Miller, Lisa Koitzsch, Woody Dugan, Pete Colgan

1. Chuck made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2021, meeting as corrected with Sally's edits. Woody seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.
2. Public Input – No member of the public was present. Brief discussion re: email SB received from Don Simonini.
3. Public Forum #3 (Recreation)
  - a. Not as many people participated as were anticipated.
  - b. Much of the public input was a repetition of ideas heard in the first two forums, although there was a good diversity of opinions, and more was heard from the horseback riding community.
  - c. Becca Washburn's presentation was well received.
  - d. The fourth public input forum will focus on initial draft management planning strategies, instead of a repetition of the format of the first three forums. Also, SC should work on planning possible education field days to the property.
  - e. Woody brought up options of getting public input in person by having people draw on maps – similar to what is suggested in the recreation planning toolkit.
  - f. Sally is working on a synopsis of the public input.
  - g. Kudos to Pete for his effective introductions to the three forums.
  - h. Brief discussion about horseback riding and biking and the concern about access to other properties and permission from landowners.
4. Management Plan next steps
  - a. Discussed ideas re: finding consultant to help with process of writing management plan.
  - b. Will need a viewshed analysis – possibly Arrowwood or Dubois & King.
  - c. Need to create a document for us all to share that includes outline of who (consultants) and what (what exactly we need help with)
  - d. Woody suggested creating an outline of our management plan and then organize meetings around this outline.
  - e. AVCC list serv/VT Council on Rural Development/Land Trust/UVM grad programs/other resources – Put out announcement asking for help with RFP and ideas for potential consultants.
  - f. Corrie summarized what the SC needs to look for in a consultant.
    1. Help facilitate SC through the conversation – a taskmaster.
      - A. They plan how we get to what we need to get. They provide leadership and walk us through the process.
      - B. Has skillset for management to ask the right questions and know what information we still need. Familiarity with natural resources, land

management, and recreation.

C. Someone to write the plan.

2. Need someone to help us carry the ball forward, which is critical to our success as volunteers.
  3. Leadership, guidance, research, writing.
- g. Lisa will create a Google doc with consultant specifications for us all to work on.
  - h. Discussion about flexibility in management plan timeline given how much work there is to do, the complexity of the task, and how soon a consultant can be available. Chuck indicated there could be some flexibility but will check in with the rest of the Select Board.
  - i. Instead of an RFP, we could develop a Request for Quotes – a framework for the work we would like a consultant to do. Could put this out and get a feel for the people out there who might be interested in the work and get some feedback and ideas from them. We would need a scope of work and timelines – but we could work with the consultant we choose, to create this.
  - j. SC could use a facilitator to help us work through some of the management planning issues. Perhaps VT Council on Rural Development (Jon or Jenna) or Peter Forbes?
  - k. SC should have a conversation of what we have learned from the forums and how to organize the data and information we have received.
  - l. Discussion re: qualitative vs. quantitative data. Some disagreement on whether the survey results count as votes and the item with the most votes should therefore be given priority, or whether the survey results are part of a bigger picture, in which there have been multiple avenues of input to consider and to balance.
  - m. We will need to make sure to give reasons for our decisions in the management plan. The “here’s why” is where the rubber hits the road.
5. Online Survey
- a. 111 responses to-date. Pete will send spreadsheet to SC for review as there is a great deal of value in reading the comments.
  - b. Large majority of respondents from Fayston. Large diversity of opinion.
  - c. Cut-off date for the survey will be July 20<sup>th</sup>. This will give the SC time to summarize the results and give incentive for people to complete the survey.
  - d. Possibly put a sign at Boyce Hill with QR code to encourage people to fill out the survey.
  - e. Hand-written surveys can be given to Pete for data entry.
6. MRV Trails Collaborative Map Update
- a. There will be a new printing of the Mad River Valley Recreation map soon. Fayston Conservation Commission is considering what new trails to add to the map. All agreed that adding the Boyce property and the road to the top would be a good idea, but not to include anything else.
  - b. Woody suggested re-routing the shortcut trail from the top – the ‘lollipop’ trail – to help mitigate erosion. All agreed to hold off on any new trail construction until the management plan is finalized.
7. Stewardship Issues
- a. Discussion about installing a portalet or trash container at the property and what the

- pros and cons were. All agreed to wait to do anything for the time being and to do a little more research. We need a better sense of how problematic the issues are.
- b. All discussed the issue of dogs off leash at the property.
  - c. Friends of the Mad River is no longer testing for E. coli. Discussion ensued re: whether the Town should test the pond water on a regular basis. Among the issues raised: liability, timing of real-time data, cost, swim at your own risk policy, dogs, presence of fecal matter, etc. All agreed to revisit the issue at our next meeting.
  - d. SB will be discussing speed and dust on Boyce Road at their next meeting. Corrie will talk to Chuck later in the week about the Town's use of chloride on the dirt roads and its effect on streams.
  - e. Corrie reported the parking area is eroding at one end and needs to be stabilized. Chuck will bring this up with the road foreman at the next SB meeting.

## 8. Other business

### Summer Mowing

There was a brief discussion about mowing this summer. All agreed that we should mow the road to the top and mow a path to the pond, just to the picnic table. Chuck will ask Mike Jordan to check-in with John Hammond about using Sugarbush's mower, as we did last year. If Sugarbush can't do it, we will need to find someone else – preferably a private contractor with insurance. Woody offered to install flagging to delineate mowing areas.

### **Next Meeting - July 7, 2021**

Will need to resume in-person meetings at the Town Office soon but can have Zoom capabilities as well. We will put this issue on the agenda for July 7.

## TASK LIST

### All:

- Help flesh out the Request for Quotes document
- Begin to think about management plan objectives, strategies, and tactics that we might present to the public at a 4<sup>th</sup> forum.
- Come up with ideas on building out the interactive map.
- Determine who will work on providing a summary of public input that could be presented at a 4<sup>th</sup> forum.
- Come up with ideas to create better signage at the property entrance.

### Caitlin:

### Chuck:

- Talk to Mike Jordan about approaching John Hammond for the use of the Sugarbush mower.
- Work with Liza re: resources to help develop RFP for consultant on management plan.
- Research information re: trash and how the Town might handle this.

### Corrie:

- Talk to Arrowwood or Dubois & King about scope and cost of a viewshed analysis.

### Karrie:

- Ask Becca Washburn for consultant recommendations for the writing of the management plan.

### Liza:

- Provide some assistance with developing RFP for consultant to help with writing management plan.
- Catalog other Town Forests to see what consultants they used and what process they went through.

### Lisa:

- AVCC announcement re: Request for Quotes (Once SC prepared email)
- Work with Pete to develop a QR code for survey to post at the property.
- Ask Town legal/insurance contacts about repercussions of testing pond.
- Work with Woody to begin developing a boundary marker for property.
- Create a document on Google Drive for draft RFQ.
- Create Google drive document to begin laying out outline for management objectives.
- Meet with Sally to review upper boundary of property.
- Record minutes for Steering Committee meetings and post to Town website.

### Pete:

- Send survey results to-date to SC.

- Work with Lisa to develop a QR code for survey to post at the property.
- Develop agenda for July 7, 2021, meeting by 7/2/21.

**Sally:**

- Incorporate any public input received outside of survey into spreadsheet.
- Summarize public input from Forum #3.
- Meet with Lisa to review upper boundary of property.
- Contact Green Mountain Club to ask how they deal with portalets/privys.

**Woody:**

- Work with Lisa and others to develop a boundary marker like the one used at Chase Brook Town Forest (mink on yellow diamond).
- Brainstorm ways to develop a “trash” team from our list of stewardship volunteers (with Lisa).