

BOYCE HILL STEERING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

Present at Town Office: Lisa Koitzsch, Sally Dywer, Pete Colgan, Karrie Thomas, Woody Dugan

Present via Zoom: Liza Walker, Corrie Miller, Jared Cadwell

1. Sally moved to accept the minutes from the July 28, 2021, meeting. Woody seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.
2. Public Input: No member of the public was present.
3. Goals for today's meeting:
 - a. Develop preliminary steps for writing the management plan.
 - b. Review and discuss Fall 2021 mowing map.
 - c. Move forward on Viewshed Analysis.
 - d. Review documents Pete sent out prior to meeting.
4. Review how the management plan will be written:
 - a. General discussion on pros and cons of hiring a consultant to write the plan or to have SC write the plan.
 - b. Pete and Lisa offered to begin the process of creating an outline and writing the plan.
 - c. The tentative deadline is the end of 2021 but the SB has indicated there is some flexibility in this time frame. Some concern was expressed by SC members regarding the amount of time volunteers would need to dedicate to the writing project and how short turnaround time for input/review by SC members could exclude some voices. Jared reiterated that this is a dynamic process and that the SC can report to the SB on their progress to determine if more time is needed.
 - d. All agreed that the use of a facilitator might be necessary when some of the items under consideration become challenging for the SC. Peter Forbes was suggested as a possible facilitator.
 - e. All agreed that some of the sections in the plan would be similar to other Town Forest Management plans but that this property is quite different from other Town Forests and may pose additional challenges.
 - f. Discussion about creating a Vision Statement and Guiding Principles for drafting the management plan. Pete provided examples from the Mobbs Farm Management Plan (Jericho).
5. Review the SB recommendation for Fall 2021 mowing:
 - a. All reviewed the rough map Lisa provided to delineate the areas Ky and Woody flagged for "No Mowing".
 - b. Woody provided information on additional areas he flagged at a later date, such as the border of the Saylor property.
 - c. Criteria used for flagging (with the help of the Dubois & King report):
 - i. Sensitive ecological areas
 - ii. Wetland protection areas (seepages, vernal pools, perennial streams)
 - iii. Areas next to abutting landowners where concern has been expressed about trespassing.
 - d. Several areas that Lisa had marked with question marks/stars were discussed. Issues discussed were:

- i. What was really unrecoverable and what wasn't? Areas with trees growing up are a priority.
 - ii. What is the best timing for mowing meadows with goldenrod, milkweed, etc.?
 - iii. Does mowing next to an abutting landowner's trails encourage the public to trespass?
 - iv. Specific focus on the border of Bisbee property and mowing the top part of the property. Several SC members pointed out that mowing the top portion does not create views, and not mowing could improve the soil and allow self-maintaining areas to remain.
 - v. Discussion on pond area mowing. Jared and Woody suggested leaving several locations open for ease of public access to the pond. Jared stated the pond is a big recreational asset and he encouraged better public access for families and picnickers. Spring/early summer mowing of paths and pond access and this should be factored into long-term planning.
 - vi. The flagged strip leading to the boundary with Dan Fuller's land was discussed. Liza reminded the SC that mowing this strip was not in keeping with the easement requirement of buffering perennial streams.
 - e. Woody clarified the map was focused on what should not be mowed both this Fall and what should be given consideration into the future. All agreed that developing a good map for the mower this year is a priority.
 - f. Mike Jordan has contacted John Hammond and will let the SC know when the mowing will take place.
 - g. All worked to draw a map for this year although this was challenging with the mix of in-person and zoom attendees. All encouraged to text/email Lisa their version of the mowing map as soon as possible. Lisa will draw areas discussed and share with the SC and some members agreed to meet at the property on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. to try to finalize the map.
 - h. All agreed to meet at the property in the near future to attempt to determine some of the long-term management decisions. A GPS and a large map would be particularly helpful in this endeavor! Ideally, this visit would happen before this year's mowing takes place.
6. Define scope of Viewshed Analysis:
 - a. Cadillac vs. Chrysler - all agreed to select Arrowwood to conduct a more basic Viewshed Analysis.
 - b. Further discussion is needed on what viewpoints should be selected for the analysis and how to determine the 'field of view'.
 - c. Woody expressed concern on how to select viewpoints as he feels every location has a view, including a view from the bottom up to the top.
7. Discussion of Vision Statement/Guiding Principles
 - a. Pete shared the Mobb Farm example and urged the SC to work to come up with their own Vision and Principles as an important beginning point of writing the management plan. Each SC member is encouraged to write their own version of the two and submit to Pete and Lisa within the next 10 days to two weeks.
 - b. Pete also shared Appendix C of the Mobb Farm plan: "Brush-hogging schedule".
8. Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 6, 2021