

BOYCE HILL STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes

December 14, 2021

Present via Zoom: Corrie Miller, Pete Colgan, Sally Dwyer, Woody Dugan, and Liza Walker

1. Corrie made a motion to approve the minutes from November 30, 2021, and Sally seconded. There was no further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.
2. Public Input: None
3. Other Business
 - Corrie provided a budget update. The Select Board has approved the proposed budget for the Fayston Conservation Commission, which includes money for the Town Forest Reserve Fund. Specific to Boyce Hill, Corrie, Lisa, and Chuck highlighted anticipated expenses, potential income, and building up a stewardship fund for unanticipated costs.
 - Hunting discussion: Liza sent an email to Pete and Lisa recently explaining that VLT strives to protect traditional Vermont hunting and trapping rights on their conserved properties and needs the SC to give them a rigorous explanation as to why we would not allow these activities on Boyce Hill. She asked that the SC reach out to the hunting community in some way and investigate this further. The SC will continue to review the issue before making a final decision and deciding on a recommended course of action. Sally suggested speaking to neighbors as their concerns should be considered. **Woody will reach out to Ross Saxton, Mad River Path, as a first step. Lisa will forward Liza's original email to the SC.** Liza referenced an issue in Richmond which culminated in a permit process through the Town. Discussion re: buffer of 500 ft. (approx.) away from another property – this might be a significant factor. Woody asked if the property would need to be posted if the final decision was no hunting or trapping.
 - Flagging has been pulled. Woody and Lisa GPS'd the flag locations. **Lisa will download the tracks and waypoints** and will be in contact with VLT or Arrowwood for help mapping them.
 - Viewshed Analysis is underway and is being conducted by Arrowwood.
4. Management Planning
 - Horses report: Sally and Chuck will begin focusing on an effort to engage the horse community after the New Year.
 - Cultural history: Brad Long guided the SC recently on a tour of the property and pointed out notable 'relics' – barn, house foundation, corral, etc. Brad shared his knowledge of Vermont hill farms in the 1800's. Pete has begun drafting the history of the property for the management plan. Ideas for signage included multiple small signs, one main sign, a 'guide' document, illustrations, a map, etc. More detailed information could be stored on a website. **Sally will reach out to Bisbee family to see if she is able to find out more details of the property's history.** Corrie suggested an articulated series of goals and opportunities in the plan without needing to make firm decisions now. The goal would be to tell the whole story – not just the farming history. This may need to be done in a more general way because specifics from the property itself may be hard to find. We should keep the cultural priorities in mind when developing a mowing plan/regime.
 - **Pete and Lisa** have been picking away at the plan and **commit to a draft form** one week before the next meeting.
5. Next meeting: **Thursday, January 13, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.**