

BOYCE HILL STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes

November 30, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

Present: Karrie Thomas, Chuck Martel, Pete Colgan, Woody Dugan, Lisa Koitzsch, and Liza Walker

Via Zoom: Sally Dwyer and Corrie Miller

1. Karrie moved to approve the minutes from October 27, 2021, with Corrie's edits and the addition of Karrie as being present at the meeting. Chuck seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.
2. No public input.
3. Goals for today's meeting:
 - Budget decisions
 - Next meeting date
 - Management planning
4. Update Viewshed Analysis
Contract has been signed, Lisa to check if it was sent to Arrowwood.
5. 2022 Budget
The Conservation Commission will present its annual budget request to Select Board soon and needs to include funds for Boyce Hill. Discussion re: what ongoing annual expenses will be, special projects, capital improvements, unanticipated expenses, etc. There is no management plan in place yet so predicting costs is challenging. Corrie and Lisa will adapt last year's budget and send out to SC for input. The goal is to be ready for 12/7/21 SB budget meeting but may need to delay until the next SB budget meeting (date to be decided).
6. Meeting schedule
Pete and Lisa asked the group to agree to more frequent meetings. Next meeting will be on December 14, 2021, at 4:00 PM for one hour. This meeting will be held via Zoom – there will be no in-person meeting.
7. Management Planning
 - Sally and Chuck offered to initiate contact with equestrian community to begin discussions on the public's concerns regarding allowing horses on the property and the impact they might have. Lisa will email names and details to Sally and Chuck.
 - Karrie will research the different E-bike classes that exist and email the SC with her findings.Liza helped to facilitate discussion on several management issues:
 - Hunting: All agreed not to allow hunting due primarily to safety concerns and possible conflicts with other users.
 - Fishing: All agreed to allow fishing for now but not to stock the pond. This use will be reassessed periodically. More research will be conducted on what species inhabit the pond and native species habitat enhancement.

- Trapping: All agreed not to allow trapping on the property, citing safety concerns.
- Pond Management:
 1. Continue to allow swimming at own risk
 2. Skating will be allowed depending on Town approval and insurance liability/cost.
 3. The dock will not be re-installed.
 4. Agreement that two or three areas should be improved for safer and better access for swimming. SC will visit site and determine these locations and costs of improving access.
 5. Woody will contact Shawn Patenaude and ask for a written assessment of the pond embankment situation with his recommendations. Removing vegetation on the outer embankment will help preserve the integrity of the pond into the future.
 6. The far end of the pond (where the perennial stream enters) will be allowed to revegetate to create some wildlife habitat and to dissuade people from creating a trail around the entire perimeter. Not all SC members agreed with not having a trail around the perimeter so further discussion may be warranted.
 7. Discussion on improving the ecology of the pond by adding some structure (downed logs, boulder) at the far end. Agreement to consult with State biologists for ideas on how to improve habitat for amphibians without compromising swimming values.
 8. Still need to discuss how much to mow around the pond in early summer.
- 8. Other business:
 - Woody reminded SC that GPS delineation of flagged areas should happen soon. Lisa will coordinate with Woody.
 - Brad Long will be leading a hike for the SC on Sunday, December 5, at 1 PM to discuss property and land use history.