

## BOYCE HILL STEERING COMMITTEE

### Minutes

OCTOBER 27, 2021

**SC Members present:** Pete Colgan, Woody Dugan, Sally Dwyer, Chuck Martel, Liza Walker, Karrie Thomas, and Lisa Koitzsch

**SC Members via Zoom:** Corrie Miller

1. Chuck moved to approve the minutes from the October 6, 2021, meeting. Woody seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.
2. Public Input – no members of the public were present.
3. Goals for today's meeting:
  - Finalize Vision and Guiding Principles
  - Begin discussion of management strategies

4. Boyce Hill Management Plan Guiding Principles  
Lisa and Woody presented a draft to the SC and after some discussion, all agreed on the following:

In this Management Plan, the Steering Committee strives to:

1. Integrate our understanding of the history of this land, knowledge of present ecological conditions, community interests, and the anticipation of a changing future.
2. Apply community input as well as the best available scientific, cultural, and practical expertise to our management planning.
3. Encourage informed and peaceful human connections to the land while optimizing healthy natural communities and promoting sustainable recreational opportunities.
4. Cooperate with and be thoughtful and respectful of Boyce Hill's neighbors.

5. Boyce Hill Vision Statement  
Corrie and Pete presented a draft to the SC and after a short discussion, all agreed on the following Vision Statement:

Boyce Hill is a place where rolling hillsides and dramatic views inspire opportunities for quiet reflection, passive recreation, and meaningful connection to the past, the land, and each other. Its visitors are thoughtful stewards of the land, helping its soils to heal, wildlife to thrive and ecosystems to flourish.

6. Management Planning  
Pete and Lisa shared a management planning spreadsheet with the SC and received feedback. Liza Walker helped facilitate a discussion on several management topics:
  - Parking: Keep lot at its present size of 8 spaces, repair erosion damage and reinforce edges, bring in larger rocks to improve obstruction barrier, ensure stable and safe parking in the long term.
  - Road: Work on traffic calming measures; Corrie noted need to ensure road doesn't get wider over time and to consider narrowing drivable surface

- Dogs: Dogs shall be leashed, owners responsible for removing waste, discussion re: adding a dog bag station
  - Horses: Discussion on allowing horses on main trail to top, but for now, no horses allowed. SC will reach out to horse owners and Vermont Horse Council with a list of concerns such as: erosion, impact on surrounding parcels, soil vulnerability especially at the top, bringing in non-native seeds, vans in parking lot, removal of horse droppings, interaction with dogs and bikes, commercial use complexity. Long-term: develop horse-specific plan with horse riding partners, consider individual horse-riding permits.
  - Biking: Allowed on main trail to top in the short-term. Consider allowing on designated 'lollipop' trail once it has been rerouted. No bike specific terrain and trails. Will need to research definition of E-bike as there are various classes.
  - Trails: 'Lollipop' trail from top will need to be re-routed due to erosion concerns.
7. Mowing Update  
 Sugarbush has completed the 2021 Fall mowing in an exchange in which the Town side-arm mower (with operator) was used to mow some of the ski area's parking lots. All expressed appreciation for Sugarbush and the mowing crew. Many SC members expressed frustration at not having been able to meet with the mower operator ahead of time to review the nuances of the proposed map and all agreed that communication on this issue moving forward needed improvement. In the future, SC plans to GPS areas slated for mowing to reduce confusion between hand-drawn maps and flagging.
8. SC discussed the recent VLT newsletter that highlighted the history of the Abenaki people on the Vermont landscape and their present-day involvement with conserved properties. SC will consider how to integrate Abenaki history and culture into Boyce Hill management planning.
9. SC received an email from Brad Long regarding the cultural history of Boyce Hill. He has offered to lead an educational walk, perhaps in the Spring.

**\*NEXT MEETING: TBD, 6:00 PM\***