

BOYCE HILL STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes

February 1, 2022

Present via Zoom: Pete Colgan, Woody Dugan, Sally Dwyer, Chuck Martel, Corrie Miller and Karrie Thomas.

Guest speaker: Brad Long (representing the MRV Housing Rural Resource Commission)

1. January 13, 2022 Minutes: Sally moved to approve the minutes; Karrie Thomas seconded. All approved the minutes with no changes.
2. No public input.
3. Potential Funding Sources:
 - a. Pete introduced Brad Long who was representing the MRV Housing Rural Resource Commission, an agency that is hoping to obtain funds to identify and preserve historic properties in the Valley. Boyce Hill has been identified as a potential recipient of a \$5,000 - \$8,000 grant, the application for which must be submitted by March 7, 2022. The grants are structured as a 60% federal/40% recipient split. It is estimated that it would take until approximately August 2022 for funds to be dispersed; any funds received must be spent by 8/1/2024. Brad believes that the Rural Research Commission would be responsible for managing the grant funds, but will confirm. Possible uses include hiring a professional (potentially Samantha Ford of Turnstone Research) to research and document Boyce Hill's land use with an eye to creating signage describing the features of the property. Pete will be in touch with Brad Long about the next steps to be taken.
 - b. Pete reported that Jared Cadwell approached him to let him know that the Town of Fayston expects to receive \$375,000 - \$400,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds; about half that amount has already been received by the Town. These funds could be used for recreational purposes and Jared was essentially looking for a wish list from the steering committee for Boyce Hill. While there is no rush to submit to the town a list of possible uses, they might include:
 - Hardening the path down to the pond to make it more accessible
 - Signage
 - Recreational uses including designing and building additional trails
 - Hiring help to produce the management plan
 - Researching ways Boyce Hill could be connected to the State's Dowsville Headwater property
4. Dates for Next Meetings: After some discussion about how frequently and for how long next steering committee meetings should be, it was agreed that we would meet the first and third

Tuesdays of each month, from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM. Corrie will send out two calendar invites – one for the first Tuesdays and the other for the third Tuesdays.

5. Updates:

- a. Hunting – Woody spoke with Ross Saxton about hunting at Boyce Hill. Ross does not believe it is a good place to hunt because of its relatively small size so he does not think there will be much pushback if hunting is limited (perhaps by issuing permits) or prohibited. Ross does think signage will be key both as to the information provided and where the signs are installed. Woody intends to reach out to the Back Country Hunters & Anglers for more feedback.
- b. Horseback Riding – Sally reported receiving a number of responses from the Fayston horse community, none of which offered particularly helpful suggestions as to how to address concerns raised in the survey about allowing horses. She has been taken aback by the misinformation on the part of some of the Fayston horse community as to riding being permitted on abutting properties. She is still trying to get in touch with those involved with Mobbs Farm and other organizations to learn how they have been able to accommodate hikers, bikers and horseback riders on the same trails.

6. Management Plan: With time running short, Pete suggested that we tackle what the name for this parcel should be. He suggested “Boyce Hill Reservation” (along the lines of the Trustees of Reservations in Massachusetts which owns a number of public properties). Others suggested just “Boyce Hill.” The group agreed to continue this discussion via email.

Minutes submitted by: Sally Dwyer

NEXT MEETING DATE – Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 6:30 PM – via Zoom