

**BOYCE HILL STEERING COMMITTEE**  
**Minutes - Draft**  
**March 1, 2022**

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

**\*To-Do Items in Bold Within Text\***

1. Corrie moved to approve the minutes from February 15, 2021, as edited. Karrie seconded the motion, no further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.
2. Management Plan Writing – Next Steps
  - Pete and Lisa have started the process of writing the management plan and have filled in general descriptive information, historical background, summaries of technical reports, and drafted some of the SC decisions on initial management strategies. The task has been more work than anticipated and the SC will now be looking for a consultant to help complete the task.
  - A consultant will be integral in helping to move the process forward by facilitating Steering Committee discussions and synthesizing public input. The SC will need to delineate what they need help with and what the consultant can help with.
  - Corrie suggested asking the Select Board to provide funding for a consultant through ARPA funds. Discussion on cost of using a consultant and whether an RFP should set a cap on cost.
  - SC reviewed RFQ document drafted last summer and updated it to reflect work that has already been completed and discussed the work to be conducted by consultant going forward. This will include pulling expertise and research together and noting any missing information. The consultant will need to review all the work that has been completed to-date.
  - Pete noted a need for ecological expertise to help guide management decisions and create appropriate strategies. Karrie pointed out that a consultant could help the SC facilitate a process that decides where trails might or might not be sited and create an intention to minimize disturbance to natural communities. Woody agreed that designing a process for decisions was important. Corrie noted that ‘kicking the can’ was suitable for items such as trail design, but there are important management items that should be tackled now.
  - Consultant should help SC articulate which decisions are critical and which ones can be delayed. Liza reminded the SC the management plan is not just about the result, but also about the process. It is important to frame intentions and describe the rationale behind decisions. Corrie stated that we need to make decisions so that people know how they can use the property and how the Town should manage it. Karrie added that a process to delineate how future decisions

are made is important. Corrie suggested the management plan could be organized by goals, how the goals will be carried out in the next few years, and timeline for potential changes or adaptations.

- Until a consultant is selected, Liza offered to continue helping with facilitation of some of the management planning discussions. All agreed to dive into some of the more complicated and multi-layered issues to move the process forward.
  - Mapping: **Caitlin is working on creating a map** from the flagged areas that Lisa and Woody GPS'd in the Fall. All agreed that working with a large map or electronic maps would be helpful in delineating management areas. The goal is to tackle this task at the first SC meeting in April. **Lisa will check to see if Town Office meeting room is available** on that date otherwise Karrie offered to use her office. **Liza offered to facilitate** the work on maps.
  - Next steps: **Lisa and Pete will draft an RFP with a detailed Scope of Work and submit to the SC for comments by March 10<sup>th</sup>.**
  - In summary: A consultant will review all the information we have received from community input and technical expertise. They will bring these pieces together to craft decision points (areas where SC needs to be consulted), and then articulate all of these in the management plan document.
3. Management Plan Topic Review/Update
- Pond Management: SC needs to decide on next steps. At the previous meeting, Ross Saxton highly recommended removing fish from the pond to help increase amphibian diversity. Different tiers of decision making: Should the pond be restored to a more natural state? If so, what are the mechanisms of doing this? Mad Dog Trout Unlimited involvement? **Corrie will reach out to Clark Amidon and invite him to the next SC meeting.**
  - Equestrian Use: SC wants the equestrian community to come up with solutions to the problems/concerns that have been raised by the public. An in-person meeting/webinar will be planned to ensure a thorough investigation into the issues and to better inform the SC. **Sally and Chuck will continue to work on this issue** and potentially invite representatives from the Vermont Horse Council, the State, and other Town Forests. **Lisa and Sally will meet to discuss ideas.**
  - Dogs: Leashes or voice control? All agreed that dogs should be leashed. **Lisa will send the Town of Fayston Dog Ordinance to SC.**
4. Next meeting date: Tuesday, March 15, 2022