

## BOYCE HILL STEERING COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

January 30, 2023

1. Pete moved to approve the minutes from December 15, 2022. Karrie seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.
2. Management Plan

The SC worked with Amy Sheldon to review a number of items from both the outline/draft of the plan and the management spreadsheet she sent last week.

  - Review table of contents – organization? Anything missing?
  - Discussion about how in depth we should we go in describing the SC's process in developing the management plan. Should we describe how we came up with our recommendations? Should we explain why and how we are managing?
  - Lisa will send Amy a list of all the reports and background information collected throughout the process.
  - Should background information be part of the Appendices? Need to store the information in one, easily accessible place.
  - Pete will draft an outline of the public survey process.
  - Should we include the threatened/endangered species on our maps just as we have included the invasive species? Consensus was yes.
  - Need to flush out allowed and restricted uses section to provide reasons behind decisions.
  - Discussion on human waste management – what is feasible and allowable under the VLT easement. This issue will be monitored by the stewardship committee.
  - Management categories – have we included everything we need?
  - Discussion of property as an island for the purposes of this management plan.
  - Should we show the Saylor spring on maps and how should we address it in the plan? Consensus to show the spring and describe its location.
  - Need to mention accessibility in the management plan and the need for future planning.
  - Historic and natural history interpretation need to be included.
  - Discussion of management plan timeline – not necessary to complete before town meeting, but most agreed that it needs to be completed soon.
3. Governance discussion
  - Amy pointed out that the spreadsheet could help guide governance decisions – we need to fill out who would be responsible for each management action.
  - Once the management plan has been completed, the current Steering Committee will likely be disbanded. Management of the property could be taken over by the Conservation Commission and a newly created Boyce Hill Stewardship Team. Corrie and Lisa will work on this text within the draft plan.
  - All discussed how to move forward with a Boyce Hill budget. Should we have an operating budget that changes yearly? Should we ask for a fixed sum to be added to the Forest Reserve Fund on a yearly basis? If so, any shortfall would be withdrawn from the Town Forest Reserve Fund, and any funds not used, would be carried over to the next year.
  - All agreed it was important to acknowledge the cost of mowing the property in any budget that is developed. This is a very real cost to managing this property.

4. SC Tasks for Next Meeting

- **Pete:** Document survey process, mobility/accessibility
- **Amy:** Intro paragraph, add a paragraph to describe management zones, flush out restricted/allowed uses
- **Lisa:** Supporting doc list
- **Lisa/Corrie:** Flush out governance paragraph
- **Lisa/Corrie/Chuck/Karrie** - Budget discussion
- **ALL:** Comments on Amy's outline/draft by Monday February 6<sup>th</sup>

5. Next Meeting Date

**Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm - 8:00pm**