

BOYCE HILL STEERING COMMITTEE

Minutes

February 20, 2023

1. Pete moved to approve the minutes from January 30, 2023. Sally seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.
2. Governance Discussion
 - All reviewed Management Areas spreadsheet and comments made to-date. Amy will work on incorporating comments.
 - Pete suggested not anchoring location decisions to ephemeral features but instead adding either a range of GPS coordinates or markings on the map.
 - Viewshed analysis should be made more visible within the management plan as it provides some justification for decisions that have been made.
 - Karrie suggested a 'tool shed' for management decision rationales – i.e. Viewshed Analysis, NRI, Invasives Report, etc. (Appendix)
 - Pete brought up the idea of creating a one-page document for each 'zone' such as what is used in the Town Forest Tool Kit. Karrie commented this would be useful in a stewardship document but may be too long for a concise management plan. Amy thought it could be part of the Appendix.
 - Items not specific to vegetation management – where is the logical place to discuss these? Kiosk, handicap access, dog waste station, signage, etc. They could be added to the map and tied to the spreadsheet with descriptions within the management considerations section. Karrie suggested two maps: vegetation and infrastructure.
 - Karrie suggested creating a log of stewardship actions and implementation.
 - How specific do we need to get, or should we just add high level language for some of the infrastructure projects?
 - Discussion on structure of stewardship committee and who is responsible for carrying out management activities. Before the SC disbands, it should work on selecting a stewardship committee.
 - Woody suggested the creation of a "Friends of Boyce Hill" private entity. SC discussed how this could work within a municipal structure.
 - All agreed to start with a small stewardship committee (possibly 3 to 4 people with a CC representative) then move towards a "Friends of Boyce Hill" group in the future that would work with the stewardship committee or directly with the Conservation Commission. This stewardship committee could check in quarterly with CC and provide an annual report to the Select Board. Major decisions would be brought to the Select Board by the CC for their approval.
3. Draft Management Plan
 - Comments on latest version should be submitted on the Google Drive document by **MONDAY, MARCH 6** so that Amy can incorporate them into an updated version and get it back to us, ideally by March 13th or so.

- Lisa will work on the accepted/restricted uses section. Agreement to use the word 'prohibited' as well as restricted. Discussion on how much detail to provide. Create a separate document for the details to be used in the Appendix.
 - All discussed the hours Boyce Hill would be open – dawn to dusk? This will discourage night activity and protect neighbors.
 - Should all activities be “at your own risk”?
 - Process for amendments to the plan in the future: CC considers proposal and makes rec to Select Board. Ability to enforce is a key mechanism for approving any suggested changes.
 - The draft plan document, the spreadsheet, and the map will be presented to the Vermont Land Trust once all these edits have been incorporated. This will be before the next SC meeting. Should the SB review the plan before the public hearing?
 - Discussion on whether to hold a public hearing within the framework of a Select Board meeting or hold it as a separate entity. Chuck suggested doing it at the April 25th SB meeting.
 - Select Board will feel more comfortable approving plan if VLT has signed off.
 - Document will be put up on website so that public can review it before the hearing. FPF, etc. to announce the plan.
 - At the public hearing, SC will present the management plan and its details and the process for any amendment or update to the plan.
 - Amy asked SC members to check what other items might need to be included in the management considerations section.
4. Town Meeting Presentation
Karrie will present the Steering Committee’s brief 2022 report at Town Meeting. Lisa will meet with her a few days before to help prepare some bullet points.
 5. Next SC meeting date will be **Monday, March 27th, 2023.**