

BOYCE HILL STEERING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

April 3, 2023

Present: Karrie Thomas, Sally Dwyer, Woody Dugan, Chuck Martel, Peter Colgan, Lisa Koitzsch, Corrie Miller, and Amy Sheldon

1. Chuck moved to approve the minutes from February 20, 2023. Woody seconded, no further discussion, all in favor, motion was approved.
2. Draft Management Plan
 - Amy reviewed a few outstanding questions/issues.
 - Clarification of VLT Conservation Easement language including sanitary facility use.
 - Lisa will contact Sam Ford and ask if she can review the historical summary.
 - Rewording of property transfer history.
 - Review of soil description – language from NRI.
 - Viewshed analysis language clarification (add ‘used to inform the management plan’) and decision to move graphics to the Appendix.
 - Lisa will ensure the Viewshed Analysis is on the website so that Amy can link to that document.
 - Discussion on clarification of Vision/Vision Statement.
 - Lisa will send revised text for Allowed/Revised Uses to Amy.
 - Inclusion of text “signage will be balanced based on need and a desire to reduce sign pollution”.
 - Discussion on language to include re: existing Rare Plants. Further consideration needed? Possible consultation with a botanist/VLT? Protect if it is in balance with/not detrimental to success of natural/native communities?
 - Clarification of terminology re: mowing/brush hogging/cutting.
 - Review of spreadsheet to clarify language in several fields and add 2023 Descriptions as column heading.
 - Discussion on how to best incorporate spreadsheet into management plan draft.
 - Do we need more definitions than the two we have? Should we move those to footnotes? Woody will review new Backcountry Ski Handbook.
 - Next steps
 - Amy will incorporate the changes from this evening and send revised document to the SC next week.
 - Karrie will send the draft plan to VLT after the SC reviews Amy’s changes. Karrie will ensure she copies VLT email to FCC.

- Once VLT returns comments, SC will do a final read through and then schedule the public hearing.

3. Governance

- Corrie summarized the Conservation Commission's thoughts on the structure of a stewardship committee.
 - Subcommittee of CC.
 - Minimum of 4-5 members.
 - One or 2 members would sit on the CC and serve as a liaison to a stewardship committee.
 - The stewardship committee would handle big picture priorities, engage volunteers, communicate with CC, and fundraise.
 - Several areas of expertise needed: Organization, Stewardship Project Prioritization, Volunteer Coordination, and Fundraising.
 - Pete and Woody expressed interest in the stewardship committee.
 - Having one or 2 Steering Committee members transition to the stewardship committee would provide continuity for the implementation of the management plan.
 - Name? Boyce Hill Committee?
 - Stewardship includes physical labor but also bigger picture of shepherding the plan into the future.
- Chuck agreed with the structure and emphasized maximizing the use of volunteers for specific tasks. Lisa suggested sending a google form to volunteers to gauge their interests.
- The Boyce Hill Steering Committee would be disbanded once the management plan is complete, and the stewardship committee is formed.
- Woody will begin making a list of project priorities.
- The stewardship committee would be a public body and falls under Open Meeting Laws.

4. Neighboring Landowner Relations

- Sally updated the SC on a frustrating and unpleasant encounter an abutting landowner recently experienced with a skier on his land. There have also been instances of sap lines being moved by skiers this winter.
- The only way landowners can legally stop people from being on their land is to post 'No Trespassing' signs.
- Discussion about how we can try to help mitigate unauthorized use of neighboring trails and work with abutting landowners.
 - Strengthen the wording on signs as you leave Boyce Hill.
 - Ask abutters what they need help with.
- Use VLT and other land use organizations as a resource for approaching abutters regarding authorized trail use.
- Some landowners are very frustrated, and Karrie urged caution in how we approach these issues.

- Woody suggested putting a closed sign on the border of the Boyce property to see how the public reacts, and to possibly offer trail maintenance help.
 - Sally will call Liza Walker to discuss these issues and ask for help handling this situation. Karrie will speak with Rebecca Washburn from Forest, Parks & Recreation and Kate Wanner of the Trust for Public Land and solicit their advice.
 - Corrie suggested adding language to the management plan to encourage users to understand that private land borders this public land. These are not official trails so please reach out to landowners for permission.
 - Sally and Karrie expressed concern about the language regarding abutters that is in the plan right now. Remove the word 'promote'. Make the language less forceful – 'IF' we can find a way that is amenable. Use 'seek' instead of 'identify'.
5. Next SC meeting date is set for Monday, May 8th at 6:00 PM.