

MINUTES
Boyce Hill Town Forest Steering Committee
10/21/2020

The Zoom meeting started at ~7:05. Attending: Caitlin Cusack, Woody Dugan, Sally Dwyer, Lisa Koitzsch, Chuck Martel, Corrie Miller, and Karrie Thomas. Absent: Peter Colgan and Liza Walker. The meeting was “Zoom bombed” at 7:16; the call was cancelled and restarted shortly afterwards when Lisa emailed a new Zoom invitation to the attendees.

- I. Administrative:
 - A. Approved 10/7/2020 minutes with minor wordsmithing corrections.
 - B. There were no comments from the public.

- II. Ongoing Work:
 - A. Organizing the Committee – Lisa reported on the work Corrie, Karrie and Pete had done to create a new BHTF email account (FaystonBHTF@gmail.com) on the Gmail drive. The new email is easy to use and removes it from Corrie’s drive thereby avoiding space constraints. The Gmail account folders can be shared with others on the Steering Committee. Corrie will migrate existing files on her drive to the new Gmail folder.

The owner of the Gmail drive is the Fayston Boyce Hill Town Forest. Sub folders include Communications, Fund Raising, Public Easements, Research, Public Feed Back, and Work Plans. This Gmail drive will serve as a clearing house for all of the information to date. Lisa and Corrie will be in charge of it for now.

- B. Communications – Corrie and Pete are pulling together the information collected to date in order to share it with the community. It will include reports such as the Natural Resources Inventory, the report from Audubon, the VLT Invasive Species report, cultural and historical information, and public input. No one who has wanted to provide input has been turned away although the information collected to date has not been organized and cataloged. Sally offered to do that in conjunction with Corrie and Karrie; Lisa will share the topics covered. Sally, Corrie and Karrie will also create a form to collect and catalog public input going forward.

- C. Pond Embankment – The landowner and tenants abutting the pond have expressed their concern about the removal of vegetation from the embankment and the loss of privacy that may result. Shawn Patenaude, the embankment expert, will meet with Lisa and Woody on Friday, Oct. 23rd, to discuss what should be removed. Woody Dugan and Ned Kelley (of the Fayston Conservation Commission) were not clear what should be done to preserve the embankment.

- D. “No Parking” Sign for the Gate – Lisa reported that the new sign has not arrived yet. Woody offered to help install the new sign when it arrives and to paint the plywood around the original sign in order to highlight the new sign.

- E. Firepits – discussion on this topic was postponed in the interest of time.

- F. Mowing – the Committee agreed that mowing this fall should only be done on those parts of the parcel that would likely be unrecoverable after this year (or recoverable at significantly greater expense). It was also agreed that those Steering Committee members who know people with mowing equipment should contact them to determine their interest, availability and type of equipment they would use if they were engaged to mow this fall. Chuck said he would explore town funding.

The committee then discussed the group walk that had taken place the previous day and slightly modified the map Corrie displayed via screen share. Corrie will email the final the final version of the map to Steering Committee members.

III. Next Immediate Tasks

- A. Commercial Permit Process – Woody agreed to draft a special use permit to be used while the interim management plan is in effect. He will share the draft with the Steering Committee and then forward to the Select Board.

The Zoom call ended at ~8:40. Topics not covered at this meeting are postponed to future meetings.