

Prospect Hill Trustees Meeting

October 9, 2019

Prospect Hill Trustees present: Betsy Whittaker, Chair, Lewis White, Terry Chapman, Jerelyn Wilson, Maria Glabach, Ed Anthes, Carolyn Mayo-Brown. Also present was Debbie Brooks.

Betsy called the meeting to order at 5:05PM.

Jerelyn moved and Lewis seconded to accept the January 16, 2019 Prospect Hill Trustee meeting minutes. The motion passed with one abstention.

Lee Chamberlin and members of the Highway Department mowed the Prospect Hill field. Jonathon Royce and his ArborClimb, Inc. crew cleared the edges of the field and cut back the saplings on the steep eastern trail access using a grinding type of head on his Brontosaurus. The Highway Department used their flail mower. The equipment was brought up through Debbie Brooks' property through a stone wall that was dismantled and partially rebuilt upon exit. Ed worked at replacing more of the stone wall.

Debbie noted that there remained some very large stones out of place. She also noted that she was expecting to be notified when they were going to mow so she could be present when the equipment went through her land. In the future there needs to be some advance notice and coordination. It was noted that as it was hard to know where the equipment had gone up and that there wasn't much evidence left by the machinery. This was per request of the landowner in order to prevent a new trail forming down that side.

The combined effort was just what was needed, as the area was extremely overgrown. The Prospect Hill Trustees want to express their thanks to Jonathon Royce and his ArborClimb crew who volunteered their services on behalf of the town. Furthermore, thanks go to Lee Chamberlin and crew for taking the time in a busy work schedule and doing such a fine job of mowing.

Lewis described a conversation with Lee about what type of equipment might be best for future mowings. Brush hogs might serve a dual purpose of doing a first pass on the roadsides as well as mowing Prospect Hill. A discussion followed on whether using a brush hog was practical and could get the job done. Lee is looking into it. Lewis also said that Lee was amenable to annually mowing the Prospect Hill field, but scheduling can be tight and he might need to skip a year. It was discussed that we need a dependable way to mow and remove invasives on a regular basis. The importance of cutting back and grinding the edges was noted and that we couldn't expect Jonathan and crew to volunteer every year.

Carolyn gave an update on the Dummerston Missing Links Trail Project. The goal of the project is to fill in the missing sections of the trail connecting to the Putney Mt. Association Trails in the north to Prospect Hill and then on to Black Mt. and the trails to Brattleboro. When complete it will provide a valuable community resource. The ongoing effort has spanned 20 years.

Recently, access has been gained to eight abutting parcels stretching from the Putney-Dummerston town line to Evans Rd and parcels on the south side of the road. Two of the parcels will be purchased through fundraising efforts and owned by Putney Mt. Association. Hunting, snowmobiling, and mountain biking are all welcomed on PMA lands. There is no cost to the town and taxes will continue to be paid.

The process on how to fill a vacancy on Prospect Hill Trustees was discussed. Several names were suggested. Two current trustees who know them will approach them and see if they would like to be considered. At the next meeting, there will be further discussion about the two recommended candidates and, if appropriate, action taken.

Betsy will write an article for the Views Winter edition that is published before Town meeting.

The next meeting will be scheduled in the spring. Future meetings will be at 5:30 prior to the scheduled select board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned 5:35 pm

Respectfully submitted, Carolyn Mayo-Brown

View of Prospect Hill, shortly after mowing. Gorgeous as well as important!

