HMCA Activities Report: early March to early May 2021

Prepared by Jack Widness, Interim HMCA President

For sharing at the Monday May 10, 2021 meeting of the HPC

A summary of HMCA activities in the interval since the last report in early January 2021 include:

* HMCA Leadership Succession Planning. Since early March, the HMCA continues to operate with a rotating interim president with each of the following Board members serving in the capacity for the spring, summer, and fall as follow: Jack Widness, Carol Berner (begins in late May or early June), and Pieter van Loon. The HMCA will endeavor to identify a new President and HMCA leadership succession plan by the end of 2021.
* HMCA Programs:
  + Due to the continued coronavirus pandemic, HMCA has held no programs. We have offered only programs meeting the State of Vermont’s Covid Pandemic procedures.
  + *Marlboro Elementary School.* There will be no MES Day this coming May due to Covid. At the HMCA’s quarterly meeting on April 5, we had MES principal, Wayne Kermenski, join us to discuss how the HMCA can help him to have the MES continue to stay connected and help the schools programs and activities.
  + *Bird banding.* This outdoor program is the only new HMCA activity: “Get Involved with the Hogback Mountain Songbird Banding Project.” This was begun in early May and is led by Eric Slayton, The projects goals are: 1) to establish this location as a valued source for local and regional conservation efforts; and 2) to offer children and adults alike the opportunity to participate in this unique nature study. Eric welcomes individuals and small groups to visit and volunteer at his field work site behind the Distillery on HMC Area land. On 5-7-2021 MES second graders visited the Hogback Mountain Conservation Area to observe/participate in the bird banding.
* HMCA Committees (all meetings are conducted remotely online)
  + *Financial Advisory Committee*
    - The FAC was asked by the Marlboro Trustees of Public Funds to provide a “History of the HMCA and Hogback Endowment Fund. The FAC has sought input on this from the HMCA and the HPC Board members and is in the process of incorporating this information into this document. The final document will be shared with the following stakeholders: the HPC board, the Town of Marlboro’s Trustees for Public Funds, and the Town of Marlboro’s Select Board.
    - The FAC is preparing itself and the HMCA to be ready to discuss the Town of Marlboro’s Trustees for Public Funds recommendations to the select board that they recommended be returned to the HMCA.
  + *Ad Hoc Invasives Management Committee.* This committee continues to meet monthly in preparing their recommendations for the management of invasive plants in the HMC Area.