HMCA Activities Report: May to June 2021

Prepared by Carol Berner, Interim HMCA President

**For HPC July 12, 2021 meeting**

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

* HMCA Leadership Succession Planning. HMCA continues to operate with a rotating interim president with each of the following Board members as follows: Jack Widness (Jan 1- May 31), Carol Berner (June 1-August 31), and Pieter Van Loon (September 1-Dec 31). The HMCA will endeavor to identify a new President and HMCA leadership succession plan before the end of 2021.
* HMCA Committees
  + ***Financial Advisory Committee*** 
    - HMCA and its Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) are continuing to prepare for the Special Town Meeting vote on whether to transfer the Hogback Endowment Fund to HMCA. To help with preparations, HMCA has retained an attorney in the capacity of a consultant only who is experienced with conservation and community issues. FAC will be focused solely on the question of the transfer of the fund, and will be working on a memorandum of understanding and advance information to present to townspeople. Its approach is collaborative and input from HPC, the Town Clerk and Select Board is welcome.
  + ***Ad Hoc Invasives Management Committee****.*

There have been two invasive terrestrial plant group management events to remove the following invasives from Hogback:

* + - 1) Wild chervil on Friday, June 5;
    - 2) Wild parsley on Friday, July 9 and Saturday, July 10.
  + ***Trail Committee***
    - completed some clearing on the Cross Mountain Trail and the upper portion of the Bishop Trail. (reported by Diana Todd).
    - Pirate ATV trail at the true Hogback summit has been addressed by adding signs at the boundary crossings and by putting debris in the trail to further discourage use. (Reported by Mike Purcell).
* HMCA Programs:
  + *Bird banding.* Over 60 volunteers participated, including visit from MES 7th graders. Recaptured birds from previous seasons.
  + HMCA is making plans to have a table in the Community Tent at the Marlboro Town Fair on Sep 11. The tentative focus will be on a type of Adopt a Trail program, with individuals/families taking responsibility for monitoring the condition of a particular trail and optionally participating in its maintenance.
  + Due to the coronavirus pandemic, HMCA has held no public programs.