

HPC/HMCA - WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

The question gets asked from time to time; "What's the difference between the Hogback Preservation Commission (HPC) and the Hogback Mountain Conservation Association (HMCA)?" This paper outlines the differences.

The Hogback Preservation Commission (HPC) is the branch of Town government responsible for the management of the 600 acre town-owned property at Hogback. Commission members are appointed by and report to the Marlboro Select Board, like other town organizations such as the Planning Commission, Conservation Commission, etc. The HPC meets six times a year and meetings are open to the public. The HPC's purpose is to reduce the Select Board's burden of managing the property, and does so by developing policies and resolving issues that concern Hogback.

It's useful to understand that Hogback is both a wildlife habitat and a wildlife corridor, and at the same time it's open to the public for low impact recreation. Managing the various constituencies to maintain a balance is a primary HPC responsibility. Imagination, organization, a sensitivity toward wildlife and leadership skills are useful assets for HPC board members.

HPC also manages the Hogback Endowment Fund. Final approval for management and withdrawals rests with the Select Board.

If land use planning and conservation policy is of interest to you, this might be the organization for you.

The Hogback Mountain Conservation Association (HMCA) is a non-governmental, volunteer non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Its original purpose (2006-2010) was to raise the money to buy Hogback Mountain and donate it to the town of Marlboro.

It has since evolved into an organization that assists the HPC with ideas, plans and activities. A particular distinction from HPC is that HMCA provides the volunteer labor on the mountain to implement plans and policies established by the HPC and the Selectboard. It also maintains an active and up-to-date website, a Facebook page and an informational link with a 300+ membership to keep them informed of events and activities on the mountain.

HMCA most often finds its volunteers out on Hogback's hillsides working on a variety of projects such as clearing overgrown hiking trails, revitalizing old ski trails for back-country skiing or working to improve wildlife habitat. HMCA also fosters educational opportunities for children and adults, organizing or leading informal half-day courses on wildlife, trees, plants and anything in between.

If you picture yourself outdoors in the sunshine on a magnificent mountain doing useful projects, this might be the group to join.