HMCA Activities Update

by Diana Todd

for sharing at the January 2018 meeting of the HPC

A summary of what HMCA has been doing in the interval since the last submission in early November, 2017.

1. Four workdays were planned in fall 2017 to start Phase 3 of the ESH project: the former ski slope known as “the Practice Slope.” One of the workdays was cancelled due to rain, but nevertheless, the target area has been about 75% cleared. The effort should be easily completed during next fall’s work season.
2. The annual ski trail clean up day had three parts this year. Malcolm led a small party that cleared the brambles at the top of the Practice Slope a few days before the traditional Friday-after-Thanksgiving workday. On the Friday, in the morning Diana, Mike P and Phil Greenleaf cleared some tricky blowdowns on the Great White Way. In the afternoon, Malcolm organized a crew of about a dozen volunteers in clearing brambles and blowdowns from Ripperoo and the Sugar Slope.
3. Living Memorial Park Snow Sports (the non-profit that runs the T-bar in Brattleboro) explored the possibility of making use of some of Hogback’s former T-bar lift “spring boxes” (aka retractors). After getting input from the company that made and still services their existing T-bar lift (Doppelmayr), it seemed that they would not be able to make use of the old Hogback equipment. A slim possibility still exists that they might be able to use some parts of the metal hangers/spring boxes. They will contact us if they can use the parts. (Note - earlier this year the town of Marlboro transferred ownership of the T-bar retractor systems to HMCA to dispose of as they see fit. HMCA is saving the wooden T parts to use a potential awards, souvenirs, thank you gifts, or fund raising items.)
4. Several winter events have been planned:
   1. New Year’s Eve sunset snowshoe hike to the fire tower.
   2. New Year’s Day First Day hike - organized and led by Southern Vermont Natural History Museum.
   3. Martin Luther King Day sunset snowshoe hike to the fire tower (Saturday of the 3-day weekend)
   4. Early March moonlight snowshoe hike to the fire tower.
   5. Hogback will be the site of one day of the 3-day animal tracking course with George Leoniak that BEEC is organizing. It will be in early March.