HMCA Activities Update

by Diana Todd

for sharing at the March 2018 meeting of the HPC

A summary of what HMCA has been doing in the interval since the last submission in early January, 2018.

1. Board Member elections
   1. As part of our implementation of term limits, Bob Anderson left the Board as of January 2018.
   2. Mike Clough resigned his Directorship in order to focus on his increasing professional responsibilities.
   3. New Directors were elected: Phil Greenleaf and Connor Hunt. Francie Marbury has agreed to join the Board in April.
   4. Diana Todd was elected to a second three-year term.
   5. Existing officers were all re-elected: President, Diana Todd; Vice-President, Staley McDermet; Treasurer, Nancy Anderson. The Secretary position is currently vacant.
2. Guided Hikes and other events
   1. Winter events
      1. The traditional New Year’s Eve sunset snowshoe hike took place in the middle of that extended arctic blast. Temperatures were in the single digits and the wind was howling. But three brave people showed up for the hike and made it to the summit to see the sunset and the moonrise.
      2. The New Year’s Day snowshoe hike organized by the Museum was cancelled due to the cold.
      3. A second sunset snowshoe hike was planned for the Saturday of Martin Luther King Day weekend. Only one person and the hike leader showed up for that one.
      4. A moonlight snowshoe hike planned for Saturday, March 3, was cancelled due to the early mud season which made trails unsuitable for hiking.
   2. Planning is underway for spring and summer events
      1. Training to become a vernal pool monitor is being planned for April 7. VCE (Vermont Center for Ecostudies) is the lead organization. HMCA, SVNHM and VWA are co-sponsors.
      2. The HMCA indoor evening Summer Meeting will feature a talk about moose and the parasitic threats they are facing, given by Scott Darling, a state biologist.
      3. Other events in the planning stages include a summer animal tracking clinic with George Leoniak, an insect walk, a moss walk, a wildflower hike, and a tour of the ESH project.
3. Biodiversity Inventory
   1. The HMCA Board reviewed and approved the RFP developed by the joint HMCA/HPC Working Group. The RFP has been issued. Proposals are due by March 31.
4. Tracks in the snow show that snowshoers, skiers, snowboarders, and moose have been enjoying the slopes and trails after every snowfall, and snowmobiliers have been enjoying the VAST trail. There have not been any dramatic problems that we are aware of regarding snowmobilers leaving the VAST.