HMCA Activities Report: early January 2021 to early March

Prepared by Jack Widness, Interim HMCA President

For sharing at the Monday March 8, 2021 meeting of the HPC

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

* Since January, the HMCA has continued to operate with a rotating interim president with each one Board member serving in the capacity for the spring, summer, and fall as follow: Jack Widness, Carol Berner, and Pieter Van Loon. We will endeavor to recruit a new President by the end of 2021.
* HMCA Programs:
  + Due to the continued corona virus pandemic, HMCA has held no programs. We will begin offering programs as permitted by the State of Vermont during the Covid Pandemic.
  + *Bird banding.* The only outdoor program that will recommence this spring is Eric Slayton’s outdoor, “Get Involved with the Hogback Mountain Songbird Banding Project.” 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. A starting date has not as yet been established. After contacting Eric ahead of time for permission to join him on specific days, the program will welcome individuals and small groups to visit and volunteer at Eric’s field work site behind the Distillery on HMC Area land.
  + *Discussion with Abenaki Nulhegan tribe.* We have begun exploratory discussions with Dan Shears, Material Culture Advisor for the Abenaki Nulhegan Cultural and Historic Preservation Department, about the possibility of future educational post-COVID collaborations.
  + *Marlboro Elementary School.* Although there will be no MES Day this coming May due to Covid, we have communicated to Wayne Kermenski, principal, and Jesslyn Mullett, Junior High teacher, that the HMCA encourages them to stay connected with us to ask for any help needed as they plan MES spring activities
* HMCA Committees (all meeting online remotely)
  + *Financial Advisory Committee.* The FAC met with the Marlboro Trustees of Public Funds at their Tuesday January 12 Zoom meeting to discuss the investment of the Hogback’s Endowment that the Town is in charge of. As indicated in [the minutes of the Trustees meeting](https://marlborovt.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021_01_14-Trustees-of-Public-Funds-DRAFT-Minutes.pdf), the discussion of this continues as the Trustees requested that the HMCA provide a history of the HMCA and the intent of the Endowment.
  + *Ad Hoc Invasives Management Committee.* This committee continues to meet monthly in preparing an invasives management plan for presentation to the HMCA Board at their next meeting, Monday, April 5 at 7:00 PM.