

HMCA Activity Report for 11/8/2022  
HPC meeting

Below are the highlights of activities undertaken by HMCA from 7/15/2022 to 11/10/2022:

- Events – Allison Turner led another herbal walk in August. The event was co-sponsored by the Windham Regional Woodland Owners Association. Nancy organized a table for the Marlboro Fair and was pleased with the amount of interest it drew. Cherrie Corey led a fall migration bird walk that included a stop at the bird banding station. People were enthusiastic about the event. Our thanks to Allison, Nancy, and Cherrie for leading vibrant, engaging events.
- Fire Tower - The State is working to install some structural supports to the lower two flights of stairs on the tower. As such, the tower is closed for the foreseeable future while they work to get steel parts fabricated. They are doing everything they can to get it reopened before winter. Keep an eye on the Molly Stark SP website for updates. <https://www.vtstateparks.com/mollystark.html>
- Target shooting – Nancy sent a letter to all abutting neighbors and posted a notice in the Mixer about the issue. We have since heard from a couple neighbors, one who has a target range of his own south of the property and one who hears target shooting regularly at his house. We think the two may be related and will connect them if the issue arises again. To be clear, this is not related to the original target shooting incident on the northern portion of the conservation land. We have also posted No Target Shooting notices on the kiosks in the conservation area. The HMCA board recommended larger signs, which is pending, and that target shooting and hunting be considered in the revision of the Management Plan.
- Vernal pool monitoring – VT Center for Ecostudies is monitoring one pool and would like to add at least one more. A map of the sites will be shared with them prior to next spring. They will visit them all and decide which one(s) they would like to monitor.
- Taxes - The Town pays a small property tax bill to the town of Wilmington for structures on that sliver of land. Forrest is talking to their listers to see if an exemption might be provided.
- HMCA Ad Hoc Invasives Management committee held a meeting over zoom to work on the final details of invasive plant management plans for each species found on the property.
- Invasives – Volunteers again worked to control poison (wild) parsnip. It appears that the work is paying off, as populations appear to be declining.
- Drones – A drone was recently observed in use over the conservation area, and the board feels they should be addressed in the Management Plan.

- HMCA will continue rotation of its president: Carol Berner will serve Dec-Feb, and Amanda Whiting will serve Mar-May.
- HMCA will be working on a redesign of the main kiosk near the distillery to allow easier access for new postings. The distillery has asked for input on its own new kiosk.
- National Grid Lease-reminder that it expires in July 2023 – it is a lengthy process and the Select Board should be preparing to initiate a conversation with National Grid soon.