

Knob Committee Minutes 4/22/26, 5:30 PM, Welcome Center

Present: David Brown, Linda Brown, Diane Chadderdon, Tracy Zschau, Sarah Gagne, David Pacun.

Joe Fox from Northern Forest Center attended, as well as two members of the public.

- Public Comments: None
- Approval of 3/11/26 minutes. Approved.
- Update on Arrowwood budget: Now overbudget. Committed to completing work, but Committee will need to complete final draft, after which AW will make the final edits. Accounting: grant will finish first, then St J will pay the last \$5K.
- Impressions of Arrowwood Presentation and Public Input Meeting:
 - From Joe Fox of NFC: Management Plan based upon good sound science-based decisions. Thought that Public Input dialog was respectful regarding important points and questions, esp re: firearms and hunting. Noted that there may be precedent (Hinesburg Town Forest) for closing trails at particular times of the year to manage deer. If Town goes that route, we would need to post information and signage at entrance and access points. Thought that trails would be fine w/o Mountain Biking features, and that cost was high to build these in. Steep sections require switchbacks.
 - Parking: abutting neighbors did call; questions about town line and were worried that plan was a done deal. Felt that they were not notified.
 - Committee agreed to that we reach out to residents impacted by things like parking. Publicity was good as shown by the 30+ residents that did attend.
 - Committee needs to stress that there are and will continue to be opportunities for adjustment.
 - Need to stress difference between formalized rules versus what is not expressly prohibited. Currently, Knob trails are open and multi-use.
 - Some in town seemed to want nothing to change, and yet there is likely to be more traffic, foot and otherwise. Arrowwood's Recommendations were made for a reason.
 - The Knob will be largely preserved via the Conservation Easement, Vermont Land Trust review and Town review process.
- Review and discussion of new maps showing Town/Village line maps.
 - No definitive view. 1916 map is probably best understanding of old town/village line. Might have been for tax purposes.
 - Look at Ordinances, which contains languages which can be changed.
- *Interim Recommendation re hunting: 'Because of lack of clarity re town line, for purposes of safety and enforcement, its makes sense to make the property "bow hunting only" for the present: for the interim, until a Management Plan is in place.'* Approved (chair will work on exact wording).
- *Recommendation to Town: Would be easiest to have property "all in" or "all out" of the village. Town might look into changing the village line to include all of the Knob, or exclude all of the Knob. Approved (chair will work on exact wording).*

- Going forward: With Arrowwood only able to make final edits, Committee needs to avoid an extended process of editing and re-editing. Better to:
 - Take to an executive summary to Select Board and work from there. Try to get feedback from Select Board at their next meeting.
 - Be sure to preserve Arrowwood recommendations in an appendix, which will allow Committee to work freely to accept, revise, reject and add to Management Plan recommendations.
 - A strong Management Plan will establish the priorities for going forward, as well as help obtain grants for future work.

- Other:
 - Lyle Gadapee on Arrowwood plan for mowing fields. 'What I've been doing. Often hard to get all of the fields done in a single summer. 14 acres bushhogged-- will make an attempt to get at it this summer.' Committee expressed gratitude for continued work and his love of the Knob.
 - SJA Sophomore Stewardship Day, May 1, 2026. Students will help Tim Tierney install some erosion control measures.

Adjourned: 6:22