

Horse Pen Run Committee
Remote Meeting Due to COVID-19
March 9, 2022 Minutes

The HPR Committee met for a virtual meeting on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 7 PM.

In attendance were: Aaron Emery, Robert Griesbach, Tony Palm, Steve LeHew, Taylor Couch, Vance Middleton, Rob Heckman and Catherine Neelley (PMP)

Absent: -Bhargava

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M.

Agenda was:

1, Cutting down the structures-Schedule --Saturday morning, March 26, 2022 with a backup date of April 2, 2022

2. HPR "bridge"-Long discussion on this subject. Tony will talk to Chris Stone and Troy Brigs, of Loudoun County to find out who is the right person to talk to at the County.

3. New signs for the trails-Steve, Taylor and Tony will review the existing signs and prepare a list of missing/needed signs to purchase.

4. Need a volunteer to be assistant chair of HPR- Tony Palm was nominated by Steve and seconded by Bob for this position. The Committee unanimously voted to approve the motion.

5. Stream Remediation- Tony to meet with Chris Stone on this subject and will report back at the next meeting.

6. Tony, Rob and David will meet at the Parkway parking lot on March 18, around 1 PM, to check the trails for fallen branches and trees, to cut and move them.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 P.M.

Horse Pen Run Committee
Held Virtually via Go To Meeting
April 13, 2022, Minutes

In Attendance: Aaron Emery, Benu Bhargava, Bob Griesbach, Tony Palm, Taylor Couch, David Barrie, and Neelley(PMP)

Absent: Vance Middleton and Steve LeHew

Signs in HPR--info from Steve, Taylor and Tony. David will contact Steve and advise the Committee on the next action to be taken

Vance advised the Committee that logs can be sawn to lengths that we can use later for muddy trail sections. The Committee agreed to try to get volunteers for this project in May.

New Bridge : Nothing to report. HPR will try to contact Loudoun County to find out who is working on this project.

Cutting of Grass:- Projected for May. Taylor will train to use the tractor and the grass cutter. Other HPR members will train at a later date.

Status of Stream Remediation: The Committee unanimously agreed to update our letter of 2019, and re-send to Loudoun County to obtain their help to get remediation credits to do the stream project.

Bat Monitoring: Susan Sims on behalf of Virginia Master Naturalists has restarted the bat monitoring activities in HPR.

Girl Scouts Troop 2434 is looking for projects for their Take Action Project. David has suggested re-ribboning the trails. No decision yet.

The Committee agreed on Tony's suggestion to put up signs in HPR--asking to Volunteers for HPR committee

Horse Pen Run Committee
Held Virtually via Go To Meeting
June 8, 2022, Minutes

In Attendance: Aaron Emery, Bob Griesbach, Steve LeHew, David Barrie, and Neelley(PMP)

Absent: Tony Palm, Taylor Couch, Benu Bhargava, and Vance Middleton.

No decision yet for the signs in HPR--info from Steve, Taylor and Tony. David will contact Steve and advise the Committee on the next action to be taken. Information will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Vance advised the Committee that logs can be sawn to lengths that we can use later for muddy trail sections. The Committee agreed to try to get volunteers for this project in June.

New Bridge : Nothing to report. HPR contacted Loudoun County to find out who is working on this project. The engineer will not be assigned until 2024.

Cutting of Grass:- Tony and Taylor trained by Mike Stracka (PMP) on May 10th. Grass cutting is now projected for Saturday, June 18th and Saturday, June 25th. HPR still needs volunteers.

Status of Stream Remediation: The Committee unanimously agreed to update our letter of 2019 and re-send to Loudoun County to obtain their help to get remediation credits to do the stream project. The Committee is still waiting for Loudoun County to respond.

Susan Sims and her Virginia Master Naturalists group re-planted the garden on May 1st. Thank you Susan and Group!.

Girl Scouts Troop 2434 is looking for projects for their Take Action Project. The Cycle of Life posters about tadpoles and frogs are on display at the head of the trail.

The Committee agreed on Tony's suggestion to put up signs in HPR--asking for volunteers for HPR committee. The Committee has sent Steve's email about the map/sign for HPR.

The Committee voted 3 Yes, 0 No, and 1 Abstain to approve \$2,500 for the new HPR sign, plexiglass, and installation.

David advised the Committee that the cub cadet donated by Benu may need a new battery and belt. David will advise the cost.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Horse Pen Run Committee
Held Virtually via Go To Meeting
July 13, 2022, Minutes

In Attendance: Aaron Emery, Steve LeHew, Tony Palm, Taylor Couch, Benu Bhargava, and Vance Middleton David Barrie, and Catherine Neelley (PMP)

Absent: Bob Griesbach

Dave Barrie called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

Steve, Taylor, and Tony presented information about the wooden signs for HPR. No committee decision yet. Estimated installation date for map is late July, providing the committee reaches a resolution.

Remaining logs cut down from the structures:

- Vance suggested that the logs remaining from the structures can be sawn to lengths that we can use later for muddy trail sections. The committee agrees and will try to combine log placement with the grass-cutting over the next three weeks.
- Volunteers for grass-cutting: we have volunteers for July 23rd and July 30th

Bridge information:

- The engineer will not be assigned until 2024.
- Nothing more on this to report

Status of Stream Remediation:

Tony's efforts resulted in the following report:

- Chris Strong (Loudoun County Stormwater Chief), Troy Biggs (Woods, PLC – Senior Water Engineer), and I walked the stream again last week, mostly along Eagle Trail.
 - Both Messrs. Strong & Biggs strongly affirmed (again) that the stream needs restoration.
- Next steps include, taking soil samples to determine the levels of contamination, and measuring the stream flow rates at various locations along the stream.
 - These metrics will be used in the report/request to the local and state government agencies to buttress the arguments for undertaking the project.
- I warned the committee that the biggest hurdle (beyond the typical paperwork nightmare enforced by government bureaucrats) would be push-back from residents.
 - Dave, you reiterated your support for this project and assured the committee the Board would also support the effort.
 - As a sidebar to that vote of confidence, the necessity to craft a public relations campaign would be in order once the project is approved to warrant such an effort.
 - Fortunately, I have several years of PR experience and can mount an effective counter-campaign if necessary.
 - You expressed the best way to mitigate resident concerns was to start the project in mid-winter when few people are walking/biking the trails.
- Which was the perfect segue to the final bit of news that Messrs. Strong & Biggs hoped the necessary documentation would be signed and the project ready to begin by late fall/early winter.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Horse Pen Run Committee
Held Virtually via Go To Meeting
August 16, 2022, Minutes

In Attendance: Steve LeHew, Tony Palm, Benu Bhargava, Bob Griesbach, David Barrie, Alys Jarvela, and Catherine Neelley (PMP)

Absent: Aaron Emery, Taylor Couch, and Vance Middleton
Dave Barrie called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM.

Wooden trail signs in HPR:

- Steve, Taylor, and Tony presented information about the wooden signs for HPR. No committee decision yet.

Logs from the Wooden structures constructed in HPR:

- The information from Vance is that the logs can be cut up and sections of the wood used in HPR. This is still an open item and will be discussed again in September for action in October

Status of Stream Remediation:

- Tony shared some good news on the status of the stream remediation. It appears that Loudoun County has hired an engineering firm to work on getting the project done.
- No further updates at this time.

Grass Cutting:

- The Committee members are very supportive of this activity, and we had volunteers for July 23 and July 30
- Cut River Trail West, Deer Trail, Barred Owl Trail, Box Trail and recut the area with the donated trees.
- Dale Neef has volunteered to help cut the grass in HPR. He has suggested we use a Bush hog; the cost will be approximately \$400. The committee unanimously voted to approve
- Welcome volunteers on Saturday and Sunday. We would use tractor and grass cutter. Projected date for this activity is August 27 and August 28

New Trails Map:

- The new trail map has been installed to the left of the green entrance gate in HPR.
- Kudos to Steve
- Very positive feedback from the Committee
- Catherine to send to Erin to include in the September Courier

Welcome Alys Jarvela our newest member of the HPR Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 P.M.

David Barrie

Horse Pen Run Committee
Held Virtually via Go To Meeting
September 14, 2022, Minutes

The meeting started at 7:03 P.M.

In Attendance: Tony, Alys, Benu, Steve, Bob, Vance, David and Catherine (PMP)

Absent: Aaron and Taylor

Wooden trail signs in HPR--info from Steve, Taylor and Tony. No decision yet.

- Sent signs to Steve to determine if we can use in HPR.
- Meeting with Steve today to finalize this item=No further info.
- Steve will go to HPR and verify if these signs can be used.

What to do with logs, cut down from the structures- Info from Vance, the logs can be cut and we can use later for muddy trail sections.

Still an open item. Will review again in September for action in October. No decision on this item

Tony shared some very good news on the Status of Stream Remediation

- It appears we may have a company working with Loudoun to get this done.
- No further info to share. No response from Loudoun

Discussion on replacing much of the grass mowing with seeding those areas with native wildflowers? Appropriate seed mixes can be very cost and labor effective if purchased in bulk and of course could be limited to a modest pilot region to try it out. Here is an example of the sort of thing we could use:

<https://www.highcountrygardens.com/wildflower-seeds/mixtures/northeast-native-wildflower-seed-mix>

Alys will present this information

The HPR committee voted unanimously to approve a not to exceed \$300.00 to establish a native wildflower area.

This project will be co-chaired by Alys and Tony.

Farm plastic sheeting, purchase of wildflowers and 4" staples will be used

Projected time frame is mid-October