

Minutes
Buffalo Mountain Steering Committee
Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Members Present: Paul Cillo, Eric Remick, Lucien Avery, Renaud Demers, Leif Goldberg, Tyler Buswell, James Kelley, Andy Gilbert, Joe Nudell, Margery Prevot, Julie Sullivan, Marie LaPré Grabon, Brendan Buckley, Danny Hall

Members Not Present: Rachel Kane, Susan Rivard, Dylan LaFlam

Advisory Members Present: Hannah Redmond, Jack Travelstead, David Upson

David Upson began the meeting began at 6 p.m.

Agenda Item #1: Minutes from the June 1 meeting were approved.

Agenda Item #2: No changes to the agenda

Agenda Item #3: Nominations for Chair, Vice-chair and secretary

Chair...Marie nominated Brendan, this was seconded by Paul.

Vice-chair...Joe nominated Eric, this was seconded by Andy

Secretary...Marie was nominated by Paul, this was seconded by Julie.

All were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item #4: Introductions

Paul stated he is interested in the outreach to the community, and more of his interest can be found in the last meeting minutes.

Jack is not on the steering committee but as chair of NRLT he is here to help. More on Jack's interest in this committee can be found in last meetings minutes.

Hannah, as a director of the Trust for Public Land is working to support the transaction and the community process.

Eric, as a member of the Hardwick Trails is interested in the recreational aspects of Buffalo Mtn Town Forest.

Lucien stated that he loves being outside and spending time on Buffalo Mtn.

Renaud wants to see public access to the Buffalo Mtn town forest.

Leif Goldberg in interested in all aspects of what the community would like to see available on the mountain.

Tyler believes Buffalo Mtn is a “super magical spot”, and is interested in an increase in recreational opportunities.

James loves being outside and wants to be part of the project.

Andrew is serving on the committee to represent Hardwick Trails and and to support recreational activities in general.

Joe stated that Buffalo Mtn is a special place and is interested in the project.

Margie is on the board of the CAE and Atkins Field is adjacent to Buffalo Mtn.

Julie stated she is a forest advocate and wants to see educational opportunities at the forest and access to people with disabilities.

Marie stated her love for the mountain and for more people to have access to the beauty there.

Brendan acknowledges how much pleasure he derives from being on the mountain, and wants to expand access without turning it into a “Disney World”.

Danny knows a lot about the project and and is approaching the survey, work, etc in a positive manner.

Agenda Item #5: The Role of the Steering Committee

Developing A Management Plan: Hannah passed around a rudimentary templet for a Buffalo Mtn Survey that would gather input from the public for possible uses the forest could provide. A forest management plan is currently underway with Emily Sayers. She will be available to us until late fall, and needs to coordinate with the steering committee.

Agenda Item #6: Update on Funding and Due Diligence

Hannah stated that \$800,000 has been raised via fundraising by NRLT and TPL .

RE: Due Diligence...The ecological assessment will be done by L.E. Environmental and is just getting started.

Agenda Item #7: Resources from Google Drive

Currently Google Drive includes documents posted by Hannah and Amanda. These include resources for the Committee, maps of Buffalo Mtn., and current management plans. There was much back and forth re: a confidentiality plan. Lucien suggested that the ecological information not be shared with the public until “the deal is done”. The discussion about confidentiality vs public knowledge “sugared” down to all informative documents be posted to Google drive and not on the Town website. Emails sent between members will not include any business of the steering committee.

Agenda Item #8: Community Survey

This is a high priority mission to come up with a 10 year plan. Again there was a lot of back and forth. Paul asked what is possible in a community survey plan and wondered if the Wolcott Plan included too much. Julie stated she found the Wolcott Forest Survey to be very comprehensive. Leif would like to see as much as possible on the Buffalo Mtn Survey. Renaud questioned the maintenance of trails...VAST/VASA. Danny suggested using the word "motorized" not just ATVs etc. There was much discussion re: camping/wilderness camping on the mountain. Another question was "could the Town generate income" from Forest use. The discussion turned to how to get the Survey out to the varying members of the community... Suggestions included; online, farmers market, community dinners, USPS delivery (with a link to the survey), the Hardwick Gazette, Jeudevine Library, paper surveys left in high traffic spaces, mass email...A member asked what is good representation from a survey. Jack stated that the town of Wolcott received 150 completed surveys and were very happy with that #. It was agreed that visitors to the area and residences for other towns could complete the survey, and that the Town of Residence be included on the survey...names would be optional. It was decided that the survey be finalized and out in the public by the end of June, a draft of the plan submitted to the select board by August. The town purchase of the Town Forest is to be completed by December, 2026.

Paul suggested that the committee go over the Wolcott Survey page by page and make amendments to suit the Buffalo Mtn Survey.

Hannah wrote in the suggestions and changes as each activity/value was discussed.

Paul proposed that the committee give a "stamp of approval" to the Buffalo Mtn Survey at the next meeting, which can then be shared with Town staff so they can make edits.

Agenda Item #9: Site Visit

This is scheduled for Sunday, June 14. Members will meet at 8:30 a.m. at Atkins Field.

The meeting Adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for **June 23rd** at the Parker Ladd Community Room at Jeudevine Library.

Respectfully submitted by Marie LaPré Grabon