

**Minutes**  
**Buffalo Mountain Steering Committee**  
**Tuesday, June 23, 2026**

**Members Present:** Paul Cillo, Eric Remick, Lucian Avery, Renaud Demers, Leif Goldberg, Tyler Buswell, Andy Gilbert, Joe Nudell, Margie Prevot, Julie Sullivan, Marie LaPré Grabon, Danny Hale, Susan Rivard, Dylan LaFlam

**Members Not Present:** Brendan Buckley, James Kelley

**Advisory Members Present:** Hannah Redmon

**Member from the Community Present:** Rachel Kane

Eric opened the meeting at 6 p.m.

**Item #1:** Paul suggested that approving the minutes from the June 9th committee meeting be postponed since a number of members had not read them yet. All agreed.

**Item #2:** Changes/additions to the agenda were suggested by Lucien and Julie. Item # 10 by Lucian re: a public folder on the town website, and Item # 11 by Julie re: notification to group when one will be absent from meetings. Eric then added Item #12 in to clarify the Open Meeting Law.

**Item #3:** There was no public comment.

**Item #4:** Introductions

Dylan is a resident of Greensboro but owns land on Buffalo Mountain. His career as an education administrator has given him a lot of experience in grant writing etc., and feels that his background would be very positive and effective as a committee member.

Susan is a VAST volunteer and an active member of the Hardwick community. She is part owner of the family owned Buffalo Mtn Power Sports in Hardwick.

**Item #5:** Funding Update from NRLT and TPL

Hannah reported that the \$810,000 for acquisition of Buffalo Mtn as the Hardwick State Forest has been fulfilled. And that the move into the activation phase has already begun with a goal of raising \$150,000. Any monies raised, including gifts from individual donors, in excess of the \$810,000 acquisition goal will be put toward the activation phase.

**Item #6: Discussion of Community Survey**

Dylan stated that he found the data points on the proposed draft of the survey to be thorough but missing a few big marks such as the possibility of raising money from activities on the mountain.

And the question of costs for maintenance of trails etc. came up.

Hannah replied that the survey included the question:

*How should Buffalo Mountain Town Forest be funded in the future?*

Private Donations

Grant Opportunities

Revenue Generated From Town Forest e.g. timber sales, events, maple sugaring leases etc

Tax Revenue Paid by Hardwick Residents

The question of who can fill out the form was asked...and the issue of town of residence, state of residence, and a question re: if one pays taxes in Hardwick, and if there should be more information required as to town and/or state of residency.

Renaud asked what sources of revenue would tourists bring to the town?

The general reply was; shopping, bicycle purchases and equipment, restaurants...

Rachel suggested that questions to the select board could include what they thought could be supported re: selected ideas, questions about costs and how to pay.

Notes:

Included here comments and suggestions submitted to Hannah...

- Sue notes: On page 6 "Sports events such as Race Events (running, mountain biking, x-c skiing) – larger scope, longer duration" is very similar to the shorter scope, might be confusing.
- Sue suggests adding: "Would you be willing to pay a fee to access the property such as day, seasonal passes, or rental fees? Fees collected would help support property maintenance, trail upkeep, trash removal, safety measures, and security."
- Eric Remick suggests adding "AT skiing"
- Danny notes: With that being said I believe this statement below to be a bit incorrect/misleading. The majority of the funding comes from VHCB, I have worked with VHCB on multiple projects(including Atkins Field trail relocation) which have included motorized use. I also know the Hardwick funds have no restrictions and doubt all the others do. If the committee

wants to use this as an excuse to ban motorized we should be transparent with whom is responsible and what part they play in the financing.

- I feel the reference to Wright Farm road needs to be removed or add Buffalo Mt Trail. My preference would be to remove all. These are public RoW's which are no more or less relevant to this property than any other along their boundaries.
- *\*Note regarding motorized recreation: The organizations which are providing funding for the purchase will do so ONLY on condition of a conservation easement that will restrict the use of recreational motor vehicles to certain existing trails, to protect against damage to soil, water quality, and natural communities. The easement will allow winter snowmobile use along the existing VAST trails and ATV use along the existing VASA trail. Wright Farm Road will continue to be open to snowmobile and ATV use as a Class 4 road as determined by the Town of Hardwick.*

Dylan noted that there is a free resource here in Hardwick, the Green Mountain Technical Center, that could provide forest management...thereby having students on the land.

The issue of the possibility of accidents on the mountain was brought up. The police, rescue, and fire department already have rescue plans in place. And the question of what is feasible re: recreation and events on the land. We do not need to decide what is feasible...the select board decides.

Dylan moved that the edited survey be accepted. Marie seconded the move and the motion carried.

#### **Item #7: Dispersal of survey...**

There were many suggestions of places where hard copies of the survey could be placed for people to pick up and fill out...i.e. Power Sports, the community diner, Positive Pie, Hardwick Town Offices, American Legion, farmer's market, library, Hardwick Gazette, etc. Paul suggested we could run an ad in the Gazette that included the QR code (see below). Tyler also suggested that each member of the committee pass out at least 5 to neighbors and friends.

A number of members volunteered to put info about the survey in FPF. Hannah wrote down the names of the volunteers and the dates when they would post in FPF. This would be done twice week.

Dylan offered to create a QR code that can be distributed throughout town and stated that he would print out 100 of these so people could download and fill out the survey on-line. Paul suggested that every retail business in town have copies

of the QR form available. Eric volunteered to distribute QR codes to vendors at the Farmer's Market.

Andy volunteered to look into printing the surveys and would check with Spark and the library re: costs.

The question was asked if there are any funds available for paying for the printing.

The completed surveys should be returned to the Town Clerk's Office.

Andy volunteered to digitize the returned surveys by the next meeting, and asked that have completed surveys get to him on or before July 13th at noon.

Paul asked if there was a way that the committee would be able to know how many surveys had been completed and returned. Hannah replied that she would let members know.

**Item #8: Reflections from Site Visit**

Below is a compilation of the responses and reactions of committee members who visited the site:

Surprising, More diverse than they thought, Enchanting... especially near the orchard, Along the river there is a wonderful potential for picnic tables and developed trails that are closer to town, Wonderful vantage points, and beautiful vistas, the 11 acre orchard is very wild and diverse, interesting cellar holes at the top.

It was suggested that there be a series of site visits during the summer, but future visits will be put off until later.

**Item #9: Experts to be invited to future committee meetings**

As many suggestions were rapidly pouring in for possible guest speakers Danny stated he thought we should have a reason for inviting an expert to visit i.e. Hardwick Fire, Rescue, Police Departments.

Other suggestions included: tVT Fish and Wildlife, Kitty Palmer, a trail builder, representatives from Hazen HS and Hardwick Elementary School, Northwoods Outdoor Ctr., Green Mountain Tech Ctr., a logger (e.g. Kenny Davis), Emily Sayers (county forester), CAE, someone from Hardwick Trails to talk about ADA. Danny stated that a trailhead needs to be developed.

**Item #10: A public folder for the Town Website**

Lucian would like to see everything posted on the town website e.g. Maps, FAQ, (Other town surveys are already there).

Drafts and documents in progress should not be on the town website. He would like to see posted supporting documents, agenda, minutes, maps, Hardwick Plan, General Community resources...Everything except draft forms and documents.

Susan suggested Lucian be the liaison with the Town Offices.

**Item #11:** Notification of absences from meetings

Julie asked what was the best way to notify the committee if a member would be absent from a meeting. Eric stated the member should notify either the chair or vice chair of the committee.

**Item #12:** Open Meeting Law

Two days are needed before the public meeting to warn the public of the date and time along with the agenda.

Dylan moved to adjourn the meeting; Lucian seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 8:15 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for **July 14** at the Parker Ladd Community Room at Jeudevine Library.

Respectfully submitted by Marie LaPré Grabon