

Krusch Preserve Committee Meeting

29 January Minutes

As accepted at 30 April meeting

Members Present: Holly Ferris (*video*), Mary Fiedler, Liam Kearney, Sally Laughlin, Georgeana Little, Jane Porter

Selectboard Liaison: Peter Ingvoldstad

Guests: Dede Crettol, Laird MacDowell

Sally Laughlin, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

There were no changes to the agenda.

Our next meetings will be on March 26, 2026 (special meeting), April 30, 2026, July 30, 2026, October 29, 2026 & January 28, 2027, at 5:00 pm

Minutes of October 30, 2025, Meeting

Sally Laughlin noticed a couple of minor errors which will be corrected before final submission.

Mary Fiedler motioned to accept the Minutes of the October 30, 2025, meeting with corrections. Jane Porter seconded. Motion carried.

Financials

Sally reported that we were a little over our budget for 2025 with the small overage (\$31.37) covered by our carryover from the reserve fund. There is currently \$14,399.16 in the reserve fund. We are requesting \$6,000 for our 2026 budget and \$1,000.00 of that to come from the carried forward fund. The carryover amount for 2026 is slightly lower than last year because of the \$31.37 overage and is \$1,987.66.

Our endowment at the Vermont Community Foundation was \$44,333.64 as of September 30, 2025.

Bormann Property Acquisition Status

We have met our fundraising goal. VLT hopes to close on the property by the end of June. There are several steps that need to be taken before closing.

- The Conservation Easement Amendment
to be done by the Vermont Land Trust and then approved by VHCB.
- Interim Management Plan Addendum
This will need to be to the VHCB 5 weeks prior to closing. Sally suggested forming a sub-committee to work on the plan. Sally, Mary Fiedler, and Liam Kearney will serve on that committee. Jonathan Wood will be approached to do a forest assessment for the. Our Committee will have a special meeting to review and finalize recommendation, then it goes to VLT and then Selectboard.
- Baseline Documentation Report
to be done by the Vermont Land Trust
- Selectboard Resolution
We plan to go to the Selectboard in April for interim management plan approval.
Act 1061 Notice Requirements: The town will need to give notice of plans to convey the land 30 days in advance of the transfer.
- Easement with the Village of Cambridge for building trails on the Village Wellhead property to be drafted by town lawyer and then to Village to review.

Erin Amadon will be coming Memorial Day weekend to look at the property and discuss the trail network.

There was a discussion about benches – how many and where – and about interpretive signs. Directional signs were also discussed. Liam Kearney has researched the cost of signs and benches and presented his numbers for preliminary review.

Projects, Reports, and Events

Asian Honeysuckle removal was discussed.

Liam had nothing to report on trail repairs at this time.

Alyssa Bennet, VT Fish and Wildlife bat biologist, will be coming on March 7 (March 8 rain

date) at 10 am to discuss the location of bat houses on the Preserve. The committee decided to make it open to the public.

Mary Fiedler outlined upcoming walks. Sending thank you notes to volunteers was discussed and Sally will get them out.

The Kiosk will need to be redesigned to reflect the additional land.

Conservation Commission

Dede Crettol from the Cambridge Conservation Commission gave a presentation on a survey that the Commission is conducting. She has had fewer responses than she would like and the survey is on-going. The survey was undertaken to find out what Cambridge residents are interested in and what activities they would participate in.

After the presentation several suggestions were made on how to proceed.

Mary Fiedler Update on Friends of the PAKNP

Mary reported that the fundraising campaign for the 30-acre addition has reached its goal of \$305,000 and the VLT is moving forward with the purchase.

Other Business

Liam reported that the volunteers from U Mass Amherst are still planning to come in the spring to work on the Preserve.

Adjourn

Georgeana Little motioned to adjourn. Mary Fiedler seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Minutes taken by Georgeana Little, Secretary

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