

Land Use Committee Purview.

The Land Use Committee is intended to provide input to IMG on the following (it provides opinions and/or research, it does not make decisions):

- Major changes in the *status quo* of HVA land use (e.g., the use change of the corner garden, expansion of the field camp, large-scale solar or water treatment initiatives).
- Appreciable changes in the intensity, nature or patterns of use on the ‘wild’ parts of HVA property (e.g. new or intensified uses for the forest on Phudd Hill; commercial wildcrafting or intensification of it as part of educational programs; a fishing course on the Agawamuck).
- Management of newly purchased lands (not so much the buildings themselves as the grounds associated with new properties).
- The siting of new buildings.
- Funding prioritization related to land acquisition. Certain land/property acquisition possibilities are predictable. While HVA does not have an acquisition fund, it can be expected that donors will only support so many requests for purchase monies. The Committee would appreciate being included in long-term acquisition prioritization.
- Other land use issues that the Committee believes should come to the attention of the IMG, even if these relate to the consequences of *status quo* practices.

In addition, the Land Use Committee may engage in informal land-use advising and exchange in direct communication with the individual branches.

The Land Use Committee does not see itself as primarily associated with the following:

- Opining on day-to-day landscaping, agricultural or educational decisions even when relating to land use (e.g., when to seed a field; whether or not to take Grade 3 up Phudd Hill tomorrow; when the VSP starts maple tapping) .
- Giving input on the nitty-gritty of building design or construction.
- Providing specialized technical advice on infrastructure development. (However, we would hope to be included in the discussions of proper approaches to water treatment and solar power, especially those related to their ramifications for land use. We would appreciate being involved in the choosing of consultants to help with these projects and in choosing between alternative approaches suggested by consultants, however we are not those consultants).
- Conducting physical land management. The Land Use Committee may make activity suggestions to other units, but is not in itself a physical land manager (e.g., we might recommend invasive species removal but are not, as a Committee, responsible for that physical removal).

Mode of Operation

- The Land Use Committee will receive requests for its input from the IMG and/or propose areas for its input to the IMG. It is hoped that the Committee will be informed when decisions relating to its purview (as defined above) are being considered. The Committee may also field requests for ideas and opinions from branches and facilitate communication among branches in relation to land use issues. With fore-notice, anybody is welcome to come and present concerns to the Committee, although it will not undertake detailed work on an issue without first receiving IMG approval.
- In either case, as a response to a request or as part of a proposed topic of input, the Land Use Committee will provide a proposed time-line for a response. The IMG can decide whether or not they feel that time-line is appropriate. If the IMG feels the Committee is requesting too much time, the Committee might then shuffle its work schedule to accommodate or decide that no opinion is possible within a shortened time frame. Together with the IMG, the Committee will also specify the nature of the response that can be expected, e.g., a short opinion or a more detailed report.
- In some cases the Committee may respond that it feels a topic is outside of its purview and/or that pre-existing commitments make a timely response impossible.
- The Committee may sometimes feel that broader consultation is appropriate, either with experts in the field or with other stakeholders. In such cases, the Committee will describe these proposed broader consultations to the IMG for approval before proceeding. The Committee has no budget, and any professional consultation costs would need to come from IMG-approved central monies and/or the budgets of the branches proposing the actions.
- While the Committee will try to arrive at a consensus, this might not always be possible. In such a case, any report will reflect that diversity of opinions.
- Aside from expecting a dialogue with the IMG when determining focus themes, the Committee also hopes that, in their requests for opinions, the IMG will provide adequate time for the Committee to gather information or input. This might require that those proposing an action anticipate a slight delay in the making of the relevant decisions. If the IMG has multiple topics of interest, we request that the IMG provide a prioritized list. It is also hoped that, when the IMG-approved actions vary from those proposed by the Land Use Committee, the IMG will provide an explanation for why their decision differed.
- Once the IMG has approved a Land Use Committee report (this does not mean they will follow those recommendations, only that they acknowledge receiving it and feel that the Committee has adequately fulfilled its duties), the Land Use Committee will then post a copy of that report on its web site. The Land Use Committee will communicate monthly with the HVA community via a note in the HVA newsletter. Aside from providing updates, such notes will provide links to any Land Use Committee reports and, if appropriate, to IMG responses to those reports.