



Court grants condemnation. The character of Booth Heights open space and wildlife habitat may not change.

VAIL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Letters to Vail

The Vail Homeowners Association will host its Annual Meeting on Monday, July 17th at 1:00 pm in the Vail Public Library. The meeting is open to all and we urge concerned citizens to attend. Parking is available in the Lionshead Transportation Center. Subjects for discussion include events of the past year and what the VHA forecasts will be up for consideration in 2023-2024.

Working to Make Vail Better - Part 1

July 17, 2023

Victory at Last. [From the beginning, the VHA has been at the forefront of the battle to preserve the Booth Heights property and protect the bighorn sheep.](#) From fighting zoning requests, to fighting building approvals, to rallying community support, to urging condemnation of the property, the VHA has steadfastly stood in opposition to development of the property. Now, that hard work has paid off. On June 30th, the [Eagle County District Court granted possession of the property to the TOV.](#)

Those who do not know the VHA might ask why a homeowner's association would invest so much in protecting a herd of sheep. The answer is simple. The VHA believes that protection of the natural environment is an integral element of the quality of life in Vail, and one of the VHA's primary purposes is to protect what has made Vail great since its inception. This is not just any herd of sheep; these sheep are an iconic emblem of the natural beauty of Vail. Booth Heights is part of their essential winter habitat, and development of the property would have led to their extinction. So, we join with all the others who fought this fight in celebrating this important victory.

Issues for 2023-2024. Booth Heights is just one example of how the VHA is working to make Vail better. The Town of Vail has just adopted a Destination Stewardship Plan to guide the community for the next ten years. Now all of the TOV's departments have to adjust plans and programs to implement the goals of the Plan. The Plan also envisions that the TOV will undertake a community carrying capacity assessment, something that the VHA has been advocating for years. Now that the Plan is in place, the VHA will rigorously monitor progress under the Plan, offering suggestions and, where appropriate, criticisms with a goal of improving the quality of life in Vail.

Preservation of open space is another important concern of the VHA. From its beginning, the VHA has stepped up to oppose any efforts to convert open space to private uses. This has been an on-going battle since the beginning of Vail, as developers seem to be constantly eyeing open space as investment opportunities. Now, open space is again under attack at Tract E in the heart of Vail Village. An adjacent property owner is attempting to appropriate public open space for their private use, and the VHA has, once again, stepped up to oppose those plans.

Other pressing issues for the VHA include tenancy requirements and the architectural appearance of the Town's workforce housing. Traffic, congestion and ethical governance are, likewise, subjects of concern. The VHA is

also continuing to monitor the many ways in which Vail is changing as the demographics of the community change, spurred on, in no small part, by the impact of the COVID pandemic.

Vail has transformed beyond being a winter resort to being a vibrant, unparalleled community which we are proud to be a part of. The Board of Directors of the Vail Homeowners Association truly care about and look out for the community's environment and lifestyle. We use our voice to sustain what is good about our community. The effectiveness of VHA's communication reaches well beyond our membership to those who subscribe, read and circulate our *Letters to Vail* and background reports. We have proven that by working together as full and part-time residents we are able to preserve and enhance our quality of life.

Of particular importance in the coming year will be the 2023 Vail Town Council election. Already the run up to that election is underway. We will endeavor to inform the community about the history and background of the important issues. And our VHA communications will help shape the election agenda by putting the hard questions before the candidates.

We ask for your help in identifying and supporting candidates who value the quality of life we enjoy in Vail.

The income from your membership and paid-subscriptions supports a broad array of activities and expenses. We are grateful for your support and eager to add more media and public relations to further our goal of protecting what is good about Vail. We urge you to continue supporting Vail Homeowners Association and to encourage your friends and neighbors to join as well.

Sincerely,

Pamela Stenmark, President

To receive VHA letters and reports as a Reader, Paid-Subscriber or Member.

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