



Vail Town Hall – Town Council Election – Radicalism or hold the course.

Letters to Vail

Vail Public Housing and Open Space Town Council Election Issues:

October 3, 2023

Candidates for a seat on the Vail Town Council and those desiring to hold the position of Mayor and authority are invited to submit their qualifications and positions on the following issues to the Vail Homeowners Association for publication.



Booth Heights - Who will answer the challenge of coming up with \$5 million, before the incoming Vail Town Council take their seats?

Part One: Open Space Preservation:

What steps should be taken to prevent the expropriation of public and private open space?

The protection of Vail's bighorn sheep has made the gulf between local and distant corporate interests more visible. Factional divisions have intensified. Compromise has become a one-way street with metastasizing consequences.

VHA has reported on instances where privately owned open space is being expropriated for personal use. Litigious confrontation is being used to intimidate and cloud the issue of what is a private taking of public open space. The TOV dithers whether it will use its power to challenge the private expropriation of Tract E, an important tract of publicly accessible privately owned open space linking Vail Village and Golden Peak.

Even through the TOV can intervene they are leaving it to the neighbors to protect the right of public accessibility. Those private individuals who take up the responsibility of protecting open space are forced to go hat-in-hand begging the community to preserve the rights of public access.

Over the years Vail has given over to open space in Eagle County either through taxes or donation of critical tracts of land. Community members feel it is time for Eagle County to use a portion of its open space funds to help complete the \$17.5 million purchase of the Booth Heights bighorn sheep habitat in East Vail. Volunteer citizens groups have initiated a fundraising drive to contribute to the purchase. There are calls for the State of Colorado, the Federal government and wildlife preservation institutions to do their share as well. The entire effort could come to nothing if funding is not committed prior to the Vail Town Council election

Because of the issues of funding open space preservation and community housing, there is a real possibility that a tax on mountain lift-ticket sales will receive serious consideration by government authorities and the voters.

VHA provides clear and concise discussions of matters affecting the Vail community in the belief that an informed citizenry will be an engaged citizenry. Our intent is to promote more citizen involvement and community discussions of issues facing the Town. If these are issues that concerns you, please make your views known to candidates and [town officials](#). By joining with VHA, as a member, paid-subscriber or reader, you can add your voice to sustain what is good about our community and to shine a spotlight on important issues. See back editions of VHA communications on the Association's website.

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

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