

Land Management & Acquisition Committee Minutes

9 Jun 2014 Meeting #11

Present: Fred Mascioangelo, Caleb Hemphill, Ted Asherman, Lucky D'Ascanio, Dave Gagnon, Bob Shafto, Analiese Larsen, Sean Mahoney, Aaron Svedlow.
Absent: Jed Harris

Item #1: D. Hawkes Parcel

Considerable discussion was held regarding the merits of this property as an open space acquisition. In the end, we agreed that the real value of its acquisition would be as part of an overall growth management strategy that sought to limit development in low growth areas identified in the Comprehensive Plan through acquisition and preservation. This would represent a shift in the goals of the open space initiative from conserving properties with high conservation value to also conserving properties with high development potential. While common now in states to our south, this would be a new direction for Falmouth.

We agreed that this issue needs to be directed to Nathan, and that a next step, if any, would be an appraisal of the property that gave us a value number and a clear idea of what access, easements, and development potential exist on the property. We also recommend that the abutting Gauthier property be considered for acquisition should this project move forward. Bob will talk with Steve Gauthier.

Item #2: New Forester

Paul Larrivee, of Sappi's woodland initiative and our new forester, spoke with the group about Sappi's interest in managing private woodlands and his approach to forestry. Sean recommended that he do a similar introductory talk with the Council late summer / early fall.

Item #3: Financial Plan

People agreed that the key elements of the draft financial plan made sense and recommended that it be forwarded to Nathan for his and the Council's consideration once accurate numbers have been obtained for Anne Gregory.

Item #4: Dogs

Given all the attention being paid to dogs on public properties in other area towns, and the impact new restrictions in those towns will likely have on our public properties, this might be a good time to think about a comprehensive set of dog policies in Falmouth. However, rather than start with draft ordinance language and presenting it to the community, LMAC should convene a public meeting for people interested in this issue and start a "ground up" conversation about the nature of the problems we are experiencing and what possible solutions might be workable in Falmouth. Bob will offer a design for this meeting and pass it along to Nathan & Lucky. Nothing will happen until they and the Council give us a green light to proceed.

Item #5: Trailhead Signage

Bob & Luck proposed a set of trail head signs that would be posted during hunting season, when we close trails, where there might be dog leash requirements, etc. Some edits were suggested, but the concept approved.

Updates

- Still waiting to hear on NCF grant proposals.
- Popular Ridge Trail built; last section of the XC Falmouth trail up next.
- A rogue mt. bike trail was recently built in BHP. Caleb has a license plate number; Lucky will try and get the person identified.
- Don't forget the town dinner on 25 Jun.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31 a.m. Next meeting date August 11.