

## Land Management & Acquisition Committee Minutes

### 18 Nov 2014 Meeting #15

Present: Ted Asherman, Lucky D'Ascanio, Dave Gagnon, Bob Shafto, Aaron Svedlow, Jed Harris, Analiese Larsen, Fred Mascioangelo, Nathan Poore. Guests: Caleb Hemphill, Ed Braley.  
Absent: Dave Goldberg

#### Item #1: Aug 14<sup>th</sup> Minutes

Jed Harris moved and Aaron Svedlow seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Unanimously approved.

#### Item #2: Sub-Division Trails

We reviewed various subdivision plans dating back to the 1990s with an eye toward trails that were supposed to have been built by the developers or existing rights-of-way. It turns out there are many such trails, but few actually exist on the ground. The reality is that there is no monitoring or enforcement of these requirements once these subdivisions are built. The following actions/recommendations were offered:

1. Bring the enforcement/monitoring question to the attention of the Community Development Department with a request for help with this issue.
2. Research what public rights the public may have to these trails / rights-of-way, for example, in the Spoondrift subdivision where the conservation land is owned by the homeowners association.
3. Have the town send a letter to the various homeowner associations reminding them about the need to respect buffers, trails, etc. that may have been a condition of their subdivision's development.
4. Create a database of all access ROWs, trails, buffers, subdivision conservation land, etc. for future reference, and so these requirements don't get lost over time.
5. Move forward with rebuilding the Cornerstone trail that begins on Longwoods Road and extend that trail to connect with the trail system in Woods Road Community Forest.

#### Item #3: Council Meeting

We reviewed the upcoming agenda segment for the Nov. 24 Council meeting. Ted will introduce the session, then introduce the forest ecologist, Andy Cutko. Andy will offer his opinion on our harvest plans, then take questions from the Council. Aaron will get the Conservation Commission's recommendation in there somewhere. We hope it ends with a vote to approve the harvest plans.

#### Item #4: Winter Plowing

We recommend that the following parking areas be plowed out this winter:

- Blackstrap Hill Preserve
- Blackstrap Hill Comm. Forest at Hurricane Road
- Blackstrap & No. Falmouth Comm. Forest shoulder widening on Blackstrap Rd.
- Hadlock Comm. Forest
- Suckfish Brook Conservation Area at Upland Way
- East Branch trail at the pumping station turnout on Falmouth Rd.
- The shoulder widened at Town Forest on Winn Rd.

We agreed that the Woods Road Comm. Forest lot not be plowed to keep people out of the deer yard area. Signs should also be posted closing the White Trail in that Forest (**Bob**).

**Lucky** will pass this information on to Public Works.

#### Item #5: Executive Session

The committee went into executive session to discuss several land acquisition opportunities.

#### Item #6: Dogs

Lucky reported on her meeting with Chief Tolan and the Animal Control Officer: they are willing to step up enforcement of existing dog regulations and will do so. The ACO also reported that he is finding the Cumberland ordinance that requires that dogs be leashed within 300 feet of a trail head to be very helpful and effective.

Caleb pointed out the flyer that is supposed to be handed out to people when they license their dogs in Town Hall that spells out our dog regulations. **Lucky** will remind town staff that we'd like this done on a consistent basis.

#### Item #7: Updates

- The No. Falmouth land acquisitions will be ready for closing in mid-February. Final approvals from LMF have been voted.
- The River Point bridge is in and looking beautiful, but not yet ready for use.
- Historical signage on our trail system will be going up in a couple of weeks.

#### Meeting Schedule

The December meeting is scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.