

Land Management & Acquisition Committee Minutes

7 February 2017

Present: Ed Braley, Dave Gagnon, Bob Shafto, Ted Asherman, Jenny Grimm, Nathan Poore, Lucky D'Ascanio, Caleb Hemphill

Item #1: On a motion by Dave and 2nd by Ed, the January minutes were unanimously approved.

Item #2: Greening of Falmouth 2.0

The Committee discussed the issues they felt are important to be included in *The Greening of Falmouth 2.0*, in the process of being developed by the Long Range Planning & Advisory Committee (Plus). *General* consensus was reached on these points:

- 2.0 should dovetail firmly with the existing Comp Plan, with interconnectivity of openspace and park properties a major theme in the plan, and rank high among all the various plans the town is considering/has prepared. Parks should be inventoried and mapped by type (playgrounds, play fields, etc.) to show actual and possible connections, but broadening the plan to include parks would broaden the focus of LMAC and thus likely reduce its productivity. Parks that have significant open space qualities should be noted.
- Future acquisition targets should be defined by their natural resource qualities, not by location or ownership.
- An overall vision is essential and we think the distilled *GoF* vision is still spot on.
- Enhance the goal section to emphasize the conservation/natural resource protection values inherent in openspace protection (less emphasis on recreation). Reference existing properties when examples are appropriate. Stress the need for balance between growth/development and openspace, tying goals to Comp Plan goals. 2.0 should be a blueprint for managing the low-growth areas of town.
- Priorities should stress connectivity (for people and wildlife), additions to existing large parcels, and the acquisition of parcels with significant ecological/natural resource value (e.g. – water quality, wildlife habitat, aquifer recharge, etc.). Deemphasize the term “jewel properties” in favor of properties with scenic or aesthetic value.
- Incorporate existing management practices – they’re working well – but add more emphasis on public education/outreach. Other management issues will likely include balancing various user conflicts (e.g. - hunters/hikers, snowmobiles/bikers, dogs/ people who fear dogs, etc.) and enforcing existing regulations.
- The existing structure (LMAC, staff person, volunteers, Parks staff when needed) works well and should remain, although how the staff position should be structured will need considerable thought. The Land Trust should be included in the plan as a partner in this process.
- The finance system works well as is, but should the town provide operational support to the Land Trust given the difficulty it has in raising funds in the shadow of the town’s very active openspace activities?

Item #4: Executive Session

On a motion by Dave and a 2nd from Ed, it was moved to enter Executive Session pursuant to the Laws of Maine to discuss and consider the acquisition of real estate rights, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C).

Item #5: Update

- No Blackstrap forestry this year given the warm weather.
- Pet ordinances are in the works.
- A Pine Grove management plan is being developed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Next meeting date: March 14th