



LMAC (Land Management and Acquisitions Committee)

Members Present: John Adelman, Chair; Chris Kittredge, Vice Chair, Fred Farber; and David Gagnon
Liaisons Present: Michael Vance, FLT President, Karen Jacobsen, Conservation Commission
Council Liaison Present: Ted Asherman
Staff Present: Amanda Stearns, Open Space Manager; Lucky D'Ascanio, Parks and Community Programs Director and Caleb Hemphill, Property Steward

Approved Meeting Notes Tuesday, January 12, 2020 – Via Zoom

1. **Call to Order** – John called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 am.
2. **Public Comment** – John recognized Daniel Hildreth who noted that he was attending the meeting to listen in to the work of the committee.
3. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes from December 8, 2020 were approved unanimously with a motion by Fred and a second by Dave.
4. **Election of Officers** - John noted that it is appropriate to elect officers at the January meeting. With a motion by Fred and a second by Chris, John was nominated for chair. John accepted the nomination and with a motion by Fred and second by Dave, John was unanimously elected. With a motion by Dave and a second by John, Chris was nominated as vice chair. Chris accepted the nomination and with a motion by Fred and a second by John, Chris was unanimously elected.
5. **January 11 Council Meeting follow up**
 - a. **E-Bike ordinance** – Ted offered that he thought most councilors were unaware of e-bikes and were in an information seeking mode. Several wondered why Falmouth should be the first town in the area to adopt an ordinance. Also discussed was getting input from the biking community, detailed information on the various classes of bikes, enforcement issues, labeling and perhaps a demonstration. Caleb noted that Councilor Cahan stated that her family began road riding with e bikes this year and she indicated she was a proponent of them. She does have a concern about labeling so that it is clear what class a bike is. Being a pioneer in adopting an ordinance could be a double-edged sword but use is prevalent in all surrounding towns and the bike community is aware of their use. Lucky added that it seemed that the conversation got lost in the details and moved away from the general policy. Dave noted that he attended the meeting and felt that it was a good discussion and Ted was able to summarize the outcome. Amanda noted that the biking community brought this matter to staff and staff had previously reached out to surrounding towns and land trusts in early 2020 to see what policy was being developed. At the time there was none. Additionally, the current state statute prohibits e-bikes on natural surface public trails unless specifically authorized. Staff will follow through with additional research into liability, see what other communities across Maine are doing and reach out to the biking community to see if they have further input. The Council

expressed an interest in continuing the discussion and it is anticipated that this will go back before the Council in April. Some concerns are:

- Would Falmouth be a target for e bike riders if we are the only town permitting e bikes?
 - How would we manage enforcement?
 - Signage?
 - How are we managing in the meantime?
 - How will this increase our usership?
6. **Announcement of new hire** – Amanda announced that Caleb Hemphill has accepted a temporary part time job as Property Steward and has resigned from LMAC as he will be staff to the committee. Lucky explained that the current part time position previously funded in the budget had been modified to focus on property and trail management. She reviewed the hiring process and noted that one other candidate may be contacting Caleb to volunteer to build skills that the job required. This will leave a vacant seat on the committee.
7. **Appointments Committee requests**
- a. Review ordinance and make recommendations for changes – Amanda reviewed the changes recommended by John, herself and Lucky. The LMAC members were in agreement with the changes made, with Ted noting that the purpose was to build consistency among committees and to clarify various roles and purposes. The changes also include a broad suggestion to create a general section under Div.II-2-3 to consolidate all ordinance requirements that are applicable to all committees, such as minutes, member requirements, voting of officers and scheduling of meetings. Michael stated that he thought the amendments around the Falmouth Land Trust help to clarify the relationship between the Trust and the town.
 - b. Mission statement – The members and staff agreed that the paragraph b. in Sec. 2-136 speaks to the mission of the committee. It could be simplified, and Amanda will work up a draft for the February meeting.
8. **WRCF trail closure discussion** – As requested at the last meeting, Amanda has submitted a memo chronicling the history of the parcels and the DEP order and corrections. Lucky noted that there is long history here and that it was occurring at the same time that LMAC and PACPAC were reviewing the dog issues at parks and on trails. Caleb noted that with COVID there has been much more use of all the trail systems and that WRCF is the largest area on the east side of town. The neighbors have always continued to use the trails in winter as they do not have to access through the two parking areas.

Lucky reviewed some of the discussion at the public forums in 2016 regarding how to make improvements regarding policy about pets in conservation and park areas. Ted recollected that LMAC members joined an IFW staff biologist to review the area and the conclusion was that there was no need or value in designating the parcels a deer wintering yard. In the end, the DEP made no changes to the Corrected order regarding restrictions on use other than ATVs. Hunting was specifically allowed, along with snowmobiles on designated trails. When LMAC/PACPAC put their recommendations in November 2016 in front of the Council, it called for no dogs in WRCF between December 1 and March 30, presumably to keep the deer from being disturbed. When the ordinance regarding pets was ultimately approved by the Council in May 2017 it restricted all users during those months. This was presumably to avoid discriminating against any user group.

Dave noted that Paul Larrivee was involved in the harvesting plan and it left the large stands alone and focused on creating browse near the transfer station. Chris noted that he had some

contacts at IFW. Amanda will work to get a site visit scheduled with IFW. Some options are to remove the restriction altogether, limit dogs to on leach during those months or to leave it to staff to close when the snow gets deep and the possibility of deer bedding down is high. This year there has been virtually no snow other than the early storm which is gone. Due to the lack of snow, staff have not closed the parking lots.

9. **Invasives Management Plan** - Amanda noted that due to the increasing presence of invasive insects that are affecting our forests, it is suggested that we support the broadening of the current plan to include relevant insects. The committee agreed with this suggestion. Amanda will communicate with Ashley Krulick, Sustainability Coordinator as she is the key staff person for managing the plan.
10. **Other business** – Staff will be meeting with the Town Manager regarding Pine Grove Preserve. Lucky initiated SOAR (Senior Outdoor Adventures in Recreation) and our first walk will be January 14. This targets our seniors that would like to get acquainted with our trails!
11. **Adjourn** – John adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:30 am

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 9, 2020 at 9:00 am.