

Land Management & Acquisition Committee Minutes

7 Nov 2017

Present: Ed Braley, Ted Asherman, Audrey Farber, Amanda Stearns, Karen Jacobsen, Fred Masciangelo, Dave Gagnon, Nathan Poore, Karen Jacobson, Michael Vance, Lucky D'Ascanio, Bob Shafto.

Item #1: October Minutes

Fred moved and Audrey seconded a motion to approve the October minutes.
Unanimously approved.

Item #2: Annual Report / 2018 Goals

The committee noted the following LMAC highlights / accomplishments for calendar year 2017:

- Acquisition of the 41-ac. Suckfish Brook II property and restoration of its wetland, paid in full with a mitigation fund grant;
- Acquisition of the 36.5 McLean addition to No. Falmouth Community Forest, half of which was funded with a US Forest Service grant;
- New trail maps produced in partnership with the Falmouth Land Trust;
- New pet ordinances adopted for public lands;
- Trails named and name signs posted at trailheads;
- New parking lots constructed at Field Road and Blackstrap Road at the corner of Babbidge Rd.
- Active participation in LPAC's work on developing a new open space plan;
- Continued work on controlling invasive plants on conservation properties;
- Development of an ombudsman transition plan;
- Conservation Stewardship Award made to Falmouth from the Cumberland County Soil & Water Conservation District;
- Events sponsored with Community Programs to get people out on our conservation properties;
- Model forest harvesting project conducted in No. Falmouth Community Forest; and
- Updated management plans.

The Committee also identified a set of goals for 2018, including:

1. Secure legal rights for all trails now located on private land, including licenses, easements, and outright ownership.
2. Continue outreach efforts with landowners with properties of significant open space value;
3. Continue participation in the development of version 2.0 of *The Greening of Falmouth*;
4. Reach out to establish and/or strengthen relationships various stakeholder / user groups, including snowmobilers, hunters, trail runners, mt. bikers, etc.
5. Formalize a property stewardship program;
6. Create a database documenting all property trails, structures, or other improvements, including bridges, benches, kiosks, etc;
7. Be proactive in reaching out to neighboring towns and land trusts to stimulate regional conservation and trail building efforts;
8. Pursue outreach to the top five "jewel property" owners in hopes of securing easements on these properties;

9. Develop a plan for improving the safety of the trail crossing at the East Branch crossing area on Falmouth Road; and
10. Get National Historic Site designation for River Point

Item #3: New Staff / LMAC Relationship

Amanda and the Committee discussed their hopes and expectations for their new working relationship. They agreed that a standing agenda item for future meetings would be an update by Amanda on her work. They will also meeting on Dec. 12th at 8:30 to continue this conversation. Using technology more effectively will also be one of Amanda's goals.

Item #4: Hunting Forum

As part of Goal #7, the committee will try to work with the Rod & Gun Club to set up a meeting in mid-late February with hunters in the region. The meeting will be a chance to communicate our expectations, and to hear from them about how we can improve their experience hunting on our properties. We will co-sponsor it with the Land Trust.

Item #5: Parking Lots

How big should our parking area be? Can size be used to control the level of use on our trails? This issue was discussed but no conclusions reached.

Item #5: Updates

- This will be Ed's last meeting as an LMAC member. People should encourage others they know who would be good members to apply via the town website.
- We were not successful in obtaining a mitigation grant for the West Branch restoration work, which would have included acquisition of the abutting parcel.
- This was Bob Shafto's last meeting as Openspace Ombudsman. It was noted around the table that Falmouth is a better place today and will continue to be 100 years from today as a result of Bob's efforts and perseverance

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Next meeting date: December 12th, Mason-Motz