



LMAC (Land Management and Acquisitions Committee)

Meeting Notes – September 11, 2018

Present:

Members:

John Adelman; Fred Farber; Chris Kittredge

Liaisons:

Michael Vance, FLT President; Caleb Hemphill, Town Council and Karen Jacobsen, Conservation Commission

Staff:

Amanda Stearns, Open Space Manager and Lucky D'Ascanio, Parks and Community Programs Director

1. Call to Order – Amanda called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30.
2. Order of the agenda – Amanda noted that two members of the Conservation Corps had approached Caleb and asked that we allow them to speak regarding the possible donation of services. The committee agreed. Chris Carleton of Allspeed Bike and Ski introduced himself and thanked the committee for allowing this time. He and a group of loosely affiliated volunteers have been maintaining and building trails for over ten years mostly in Blackstrap Hill Community Forest under the management of Bob Shafto, former Ombudsman and Amanda. They appreciate the positive working relationship with the town. Their purpose today is to talk to the committee about the ability to work with the town in the use of a mini excavator to build and improve some of the trails. The discussion continued around how the the relationship would be set up. The cost of the work would be billed to the town and the town would accept dedicated donations to pay for it. The consensus of the committee was that this was a good partnership and Chris and Erik were encouraged to pursue this arrangement. Lucky added that she and Finance will assure that it will meet town policies.
3. Election of Chairman – Chris Kittredge nominated John Adelman as chair. There were no other nominations. With a motion by Chris Kittredge and a second by Fred Farber, John was unanimously voted as chair.
4. Approval of Minutes – The minutes of July 17, 2018 were approved unanimously with a motion by Chris and a second by John.
5. Falmouth Land Trust Projects – Jenny Grimm was invited to speak about several acquisition projects that are in progress. The Trust has been invited to submit an application to the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program. The parcel is the 52 acre Hinck's property on the east side of Route One and abuts the Cumberland town line. Norton Brook, a tributary of Mill Creek flows through the property. The property contains variable sedge a threatened plant. A consensus of the committee supports the application with the understanding that LMAC will evaluate the parcel and submit a formal recommendation to the Council.

The other project is a land donation of 20+ acres in the Highland Lake watershed and adjacent to the Blackstrap Hill Community Forest. This property is in both field and forest. The Trust is asking LMAC to evaluate the property and make a recommendation to the Council regarding a donation for a stewardship fee. The property will have public access and be open to hunting. The committee agreed to schedule a site visit at its earliest opportunity due to the requested timing of the owner for a conveyance.

Michael explained that stewardship fees provide an endowment for the management of the property including legal fund, boundary work, maintenance, GIS data generation and incidental costs.

6. Volunteer Stewardship Program – Amanda briefly introduced the topic and due to the hour, asked the committee to review this for the next meeting.
7. Open Space Manager's Report – The report will be postponed until the next meeting.
8. Other business – no other business.
9. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 am.