



LMAC

(Land Management and Acquisitions Committee)

Meeting Agenda Notes - Tuesday, December 12, 2017
Approved January 9, 2018

Members Present: Ted Asherman, Chair, Ed Braley, David Gagnon, new member Chris Kittredge

Liaisons Present: Jenny Grimm, FLT; Michael Vance, FLT; Karen Jacobsen, CC

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

Councilors Present: Caleb Hemphill

Members Absent: Audrey Farber, Fred Masciangelo

1. **Call to Order** – Ted called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 am.
2. **Approval of Minutes** – The November 7, 2016 minutes were unanimously approved with one minor correction.
3. **New Member Welcome** – Ted welcomed new member Chris Kittredge to the committee and asked everyone to introduce themselves. All members thanked Ed Braley for his participation on the committee.
4. **Adam Properties** – Amanda inquired whether or not the committee was interested in considering these properties (~ 40 acres) for acquisition outside of the recent MNRCP grant that was denied. After much discussion, it was agreed that the property should be scored. Amanda will send out a Doodle Poll for a site visit after New Year's.
5. **Autumn Way Trail Relocation** – Amanda updated the committee on the progress with legal research on the ability to relocate the portion of the Blackstrap Connector Trail off of the private Autumn Way and on to a parallel section of the abandoned Old Hurricane Road. All agreed that Amanda should pursue communicating with the cycling community and the property owner to resolve the issue.
6. **Nature Preserve Encroachment** – Amanda reviewed the encroachment issue on Town property as a result of an abutter doing grading and clearing work on adjacent to the approximate 20-foot-wide finger that accesses Foreside Road south of the main entrance and parking lot. The Town will pursue mitigation for this encroachment and it creates an opportunity for a possible neighborhood non-vehicular access from this location. FLT holds the easement on this property and any improvement will be reviewed against those requirements. After review of the situation, the committee agreed to pursue exploring the feasibility of a trail connection from Foreside Road to the Orange Trail. Amanda and Jenny will do a site walk and report back to the committee. Amanda will contact the Town Manager and property owner to alert them of the interest in possible improvement.
7. **Forestry Operations** – Amanda inquired what the committee's interest is being updated on forestry operations. The committee agreed that it would be informative to stay up to date and also that keeping the Council up to date would be valuable. Amanda will be in touch with Paul Larrivee to get a yearend report on this year's forestry operations that can be shared with the LMAC and the Council.

8. **Trail Closure Policy** – Staff is suggesting that we develop a formal trail closure policy. The committee agreed in general that working toward a “no closure” goal is a good one and that this should be prioritized in time for the spring thaw. Amanda will reach out to the committee and see who would like to participate in a sub-committee.
9. **2018 Goals Discussion** – The committee reviewed the goals and made the following remarks:
 - A. High - Secure legal rights for all trails now located on private land, including licenses, easements, and outright ownership.
 - B. High – Trail Sustainability Policy
 - C. High – Assist Town Forester with application for Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year.
 - D. Medium High - Continue outreach efforts with landowners with properties of significant open space value. Amanda to continue keeping in touch with key landowners.
 - E. Medium High - Continue participation in the development of version 2.0 of *The Greening of Falmouth*;
 - F. Medium - Reach out to establish and/or strengthen relationships various stakeholder / user groups, including snowmobilers, hunters, trail runners, mountain bikers, etc.
 - G. Medium - Formalize a property stewardship program. It was agreed that this is a goal that will benefit from coordination with FLT.
 - H. Medium - Create a data base documenting all property trails, structures, or other improvements, including bridges, benches, kiosks, etc. This project will benefit from coordination with FLT
 - I. Medium Low - Be proactive in reaching out to neighboring towns and land trusts to stimulate regional conservation and trail building efforts;
 - J. Medium Low - Pursue outreach to the top five “jewel property” owners in hopes of securing easements on these properties;
 - K. Low - Develop a plan for improving the safety of the trail crossing at the East Branch crossing area on Falmouth Road; and
 - L. Low - Get National Historic Site designation for River Point
10. **Open Space Manager Report**
 - a. Tree farm signs are here. These will go up next spring after the thaw.
 - b. Paul Larrivee, our forester wants to work with the town on an application for Outstanding Tree Farmer for this year from the Maine Tree Farm Program
 - c. Our new office is in Town Hall, down the corridor past the restrooms on the first floor.
11. **Next Meeting** – Tuesday, January 9 at Town Hall in the Large Conference Room.
12. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned about 10:45 am.