



LMAC
(Land Management and Acquisitions Committee)

Approved Meeting Notes
Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Members Present: John Adelman; Fred Farber; David Gagnon; and Chris Kittredge
Members Absent: Casey Webster
Ex-officio: Jennifer Grimm, FLT Executive Director (absent)
Liaisons: Michael Vance, FLT President; Caleb Hemphill, Town Councilor and Karen Jacobsen, Conservation Commission
Council Liaison: Ted Asherman, Town Council (absent)
Staff: Amanda Stearns, Open Space Manager and Lucky D'Ascanio, Parks and Community Programs Director

1. Call to Order - John called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 am.
2. Approval of Minutes -With a motion by John and a second by Dave, the minutes of December 11, 2018 were approved as written.
3. Trail Maintenance and Development Fund – As a follow up to last month's discussion, staff met with Administration and it was determined that next year's budget was already in discussion by the Council and that an amount of \$10,000 was placed in this enterprise fund for FY20. With the completion by the committee of the Trail Maintenance and Development Plan there will be an opportunity for the committee to have input on expenditures in future years. Budget requests will be due in September of 2019 for the FY21 year. The funds in this coming year's budget will pay for the completion of the current joint project in Blackstrap Hill, the relocation of the White "up" trail. The goal is to have improved access to the overlook from the River Trail for all users. It will be restricted to uphill cyclists only.
4. Open Space Manager's Report – Amanda updated the committee on several negotiations for trail connections and regional efforts, including possible land acquisitions in Windham and Westbrook which directly or indirectly would expand the open space and trail systems in Falmouth. The various town projects for land donations, land acquisitions and securing trail connections that are underway will be brought before the Council as a package later this calendar year. Also mentioned was the Invasive Management and Control Plan and that staff were meeting next Monday to begin the organizational work. Advisory committees LMAC, PACPAC and the Conservation Commission will have key roles and the Conservation Commission will continue its role with the roadside work. Amanda suggested that if there was a member of LMAC that might like to participate in 2-3 meetings a year as part of a steering committee that would be welcomed.

Karen raised the issue of fallen trees in rivers and what the policy was. This was discussed at a recent Conservation Committee meeting relating to flooding and navigability of the rivers. The

current policy around tree removal was discussed; it is primarily connected to the several canoe launches in town and efforts to keep the rivers open. It is a difficult task to perform and maintain. Permitting requirements were discussed as well. Lucky discussed the history around the East Branch launch and the concerns DEP had at the time. Also discussed was the issue of possible flooding, which Amanda explained that if it was a public threat then the Town would most likely get involved, such as a road crossing. If it were related to individual private properties, it would be the responsibility of land owners to address the problem. The committee concluded that river trails should be addressed in the upcoming work of the Trail Maintenance and Development Plan.

Chris noted that he was reviewing the Open Space Plan actions against the recent Land Trust Alliance Strategic Plan for 2018-2022.

5. Open Space Plan January workshop – The committee continued its discussion about the upcoming workshop on Friday, January 18. The handouts provided were discussed and noted that they were helpful as preparatory documents for the workshop. After some discussion about how to structure the workshop it was decided that the committee would keep with the three suggested categories of work, those being Acquisition, Management/Operations and Communication. The committee voted on ranking those categories for immediate importance and the outcome was Management/Operations, followed by Acquisition and then Communication. It was noted that this did not diminish the continued role of acquisition but that it recognizes the success of the acquisition process and outcomes as well as the need to improve management due to the increased expansion of properties and users to manage.

Also agreed upon was including any other goals of the committee in this implementation strategy, including other projects outside of the Open Space Plan. This will serve as a comprehensive goals and actions list for the Open Space Program for the coming years.

Staff will send out a revised spreadsheet for the committee to rank actions within each category prior to the workshop. A matrix of all actions will be prepared so that committee members can place their rankings and then there can be a general discussion. After that, discussion of the specific actions under each of the three categories will take place.

6. Other business – no other business.
10. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:15 am.