



LMAC (Land Management and Acquisitions Committee)

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

Approved Meeting Notes Tuesday, May 14, 2019

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 8:30 by John.
2. **Approval of Minutes** – March 12, 2019 – With a **motion** by Casey and a second by Chris the March 12, 2019 minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
3. **Executive Session - (1 M.R.S. 405 6.C)**

With a **motion** by Fred and a second by Dave, the committee unanimously voted to enter executive session under 1 M.R. S. 405 6.C. With a **motion** by Casey and a second by Dave the committee unanimously voted to come out of executive session.

With a **motion** by Casey and a second by Dave the committee voted unanimously to not recommend the purchase of a portion of property at 75 Babbidge Road adjacent to the North Falmouth Community Forest with the following explanation. With 5 people conducting the site walk and an aggregate score of 52.1 out of 100, it was noted that the its value is highly diminished by the lack of additional access to the NFCF, low value forest, the acreage is small (15), there is low habitat value, the presence of adjacent development in Windham is highly noticeable, and the protection would have minimal value for water quality improvement or protection. It was noted that the benefits of the parcel are that it is adjacent to the NFCF, stewardship would be minimal, it is located in the Highland Lake watershed and the purchase would prevent any further development of the land.
4. **Open Space Plan Implementation Strategy continued**

Amanda reviewed the revised draft and the committee was pleased with the materials. It was decided that the strategy would be set on a Council year to coincide with the Council work plan and a fiscal year of July 1 through June 30 so that budgeting for projects would be considered part of the town budget each year. Prior to forwarding to the Council for consideration during the yearly development of the Council Work Plan (usually occurs in late July or August) the committee will develop the Year 1 and Year 2 (with budget) at its June

2019 meeting. It was recognized that Year 1 work will need to rely on the recently approved FY20 budget.

The list of acquisition goals as part of the update of the rating sheets (Task 3) will be alphabetized to avoid the notion that the goals are in priority order. The weight of each goal will be sorted out as the rating sheet update takes place.

It was noted that the consolidated tasks will be good for the Council and provide a quick reference for the Open Space Plan implementation. It was also noted that no GIS improvements were included in the FY20 budget and that most of the work would benefit and be more efficient if improvements were made. The submittal to the Council will include a firm statement about the value and need of upgrading the GIS system and the ability for tools to help inventory and manage open space. Lucky noted that all departments are in support of GIS improvements and that it comes through the IT department. Ted noted that all departments would be enhanced by improvements.

Concern was raised about the technical nature of the strategy items and that a summary of requests as a “front page” would provide clarity for the Council. All agreed that a cover memo would be provided. It was also noted by Ted that three new councilors will be elected and will need to be educated.

Also mentioned was a new report by the Maine Conservation Task Force was out and provides a status of land conservation in Maine. Amanda will provide a link to the report for LMAC and Administration.

5. **Trail Management Plan Outline** – John asked Amanda to review the draft and for people to provide input. It was noted that it is very unique that the town manages so much open space. The committee made multiple comments and suggestions for changes to the outline. Amanda will revise and distribute to the committee for continued discussion at the June meeting. One element of the outline discussed at length is the relationship of the Town and the Trust and how to help the public differentiate between the work of each organization. The history is that much of the trail management has been a combined effort as the people doing the work are volunteers for both the Town and the Trust. Jenny noted that the we need to work toward the two organizations being equal. The trail plan will be clear on the two roles. Areas of the outline to be amended are:

- Associations and relationships with other groups will be a separate item.
- Process will be a separate item.
- Under existing trails, key issues will include invasives, brown tail moth, ticks over use.
- Trail maintenance will include closures, improvements and include stewardship.
- Wayfinding will include trail markers.

Ted reminded the group that any anticipated capital expenses should be included in the Year 2 list for the Open Space implementation work.

6. **Open Space Manager’s Report** – Amanda reported out on the following topics:

- **Trail layers for GIS**- there is a window to request that the trail layers be added to the current GIS and that process has been initiated. This will provide the ability to overlay trails on various basemap. This will assist the public in general as well as the ability to evaluate new development proposal as the design relates to open space and trail systems.
 - **Trail closures** – Lucky, Jenny and Amanda are consulting about trail openings. It has been difficult with the rain and cool temperatures. Lucky noted that the fields are extremely wet and postponing use for sports teams. It is hopeful that we will open for this weekend.
 - **Trail connections** – Amanda continues to work on the two connections. There are lots of delays in communication from the property owner and other complications with purchases, but it is hopeful these purchases will happen. The Council has approved funding for the Town Forest -Community Park connection.
 - **Encroachment – 156 Foreside** – The abutting property owner has until May 30 to complete the work and it is underway. Trust and town representatives will be reviewing the work against the agreement.
 - **Machine trails** – Amanda reviewed the work being done on the “Up Trail aka Cross Cut” Trail in Blackstrap Hill Preserve (Trust) and Blackstrap Hill Community Forest (Town). This project will relocate the trail and make for a multi-use trail to the outlook. Staff have also reviewed a “flow” trail in Blackstrap Hill Community Forest to parallel the Hayfield Trail (includes snowmobile use). This would be a primarily down hill trail for mountain bikers located between the Hayfield Trail and an unnamed stream that flows into the Piscataqua River. This was approved to be constructed as part of the use of the 2018 Trail Maintenance and Development Fund. The current Hayfield Trail is highly eroded from snowmobile use (combined trail in this section).
7. **Other business – Trail Fund** – Jenny raised the question of how the Trust might request use of the 2018 Trail Maintenance and Development Fund set up by the Council and funded by private donations. Lucky and Amanda explained that any request can be submitted through their offices and will be reviewed during each annual budget process as expenditures must be part of the approved budget. This process begins in October/November each year so receipt of a request after July 1 is fine.
 8. **Next Meeting** -Discussion about moving the meeting due to elections being June 11 resulted in keeping the normal meeting date. Casey mentioned that she will be gone in June and July studying for the BAR and Fred will also be away in June. This will require the remaining three committee members (John, Dave and Chris) to be present for the June 11 meeting.
 9. **Adjourn** – Casey moved to adjourn at 10:30 am. With a second by John the motion passed unanimously.