



LMAC (Land Management and Acquisitions Committee)

Members Present: John Adelman, Chair; Fred Farber; David Gagnon; Chris Kittredge and Casey Webster
Ex-officio Present: Samantha Wolf, Stewardship Coordinator sitting in for Jennifer Grimm, FLT Executive Director
Liaisons Present: Michael Vance, FLT President; and Karen Jacobsen, Conservation Commission
Council Liaison Present: Caleb Hemphill, Town Council
Staff Present: Amanda Stearns, Open Space Manager and Lucky D'Ascanio, Parks and Community Programs Director
Staff Guests: Nathan Poore, Town Manager

Draft Meeting Notes Tuesday, September 17, 2019

1. **Call to Order** – John called the meeting to order at approximately 8:30 am.
2. **Approval of Minutes** – With a motion by Dave and a second by Fred, the minutes of July 9, 2019 were approved as written.
3. **Trail Management – Current Issues**
 - **Electric Bicycle Policy** – John explained that the purpose of this discussion was to have the committee draw some conclusions around what type of policy was appropriate for Falmouth trails. Various policy and opinion statement were included in the packet. Members noted that the NPS policy for Acadia National Park had been publicized and received some criticism. The ultimate recommendation to the Council for adoption of regulation will also be reflected in the Trail Management Plan that is being drafted. The discussion concluded with a consensus of the committee agreeing that staff should move forward with developing ordinance language that includes a thorough review of current language and generating what changes or additions are necessary to implement a restriction of the use of Class 1 electric bicycles (ebikes) on the open space trail system. Thoughts and comments included:
 - Review of the three classes adopted by the Maine State legislature this year;
 - Current language in the ordinance addressing “motorized vehicles”;
 - Possible safety issues due to the increase weight of ebikes;
 - The ease of modifying the class of an ebike;

- The difficulty of enforcement and the identification of the different classes of ebikes;
- Acknowledgement of the current use of ebikes on town trails and the lack of any complaints;
- The timing of introducing the ordinance amendments and the timing for adoption by the Council;
- The benefits of allowing ebikes including a wider spectrum of trail users and accommodation; and
- The impact of possibly being the first community to come out with regulation around the use.

Staff will consult with neighboring towns and see where other communities are in generating regulation. Lucky mentioned she is attending her national conference and will bring back any relevant information.

Events Permits – Amanda shared with the committee the number and types of events that are using our trail system and noted that, like the ebike policy, this is a subject that needs addressing in the Trail Management Plan but is timely. Lucky also commented on the history of use and noted that the numbers are still small but the increase in events is likely to continue to occur. The Open Space Plan calls for the evaluation and monitoring of use of our open space and Amanda has created an events calendar to track events that we know are taking place. The consensus of the committee is to have staff work on a draft policy and present back to the committee. Thoughts and comments guiding the discussion were:

- Threshold for requiring events to obtain permits or register with the town;
- Fees;
- Liability for certain types of events such as races;
- Overall policy on intensity of use;
- Review of the Open Space Plan to see if there is any guidance;
- Expectations of the public;
- Need for public participation beyond usual adoption process and which entity should host;
- Use of existing Temporary Large Outdoor Event application with modifications;
- Recognition of current policy that prohibits exclusive use of open space; and
- Types of events that should be permitted.

4. Open Space Manager's Report

- Schedule work days for the fall – John led the discussion about the value and success of the work day on August 8 and recommended that the committee consider another work day in lieu of the October meeting. Amanda reviewed the two options, noting that the Bowdoin College Common Good Day scheduled for Saturday, September 21 has been moved to Tidewater Farm and will include trimming trails there. Amanda described the Babbidge Road project. The Babbidge Road entrance to the North Falmouth Community Forest (NFCF) does not have an

official trail connection. There are a few parking spaces at a gate on the logging/tote road that leads to the Lower Hemlock Trail via a stretch of snowmobile trail. With a short section of trail cut from the parking area, blazing and some trail trimming, this trail connection would provide a neighborhood link and access for those accessing by vehicle. This would be the second means of public access to NFCF. The committee agreed that this would be a worthwhile project and that it would be scheduled during the usual meeting time. Amanda will email the committee and ask for RSVP so that it can be determined if there is need for public notice of the work day.

- Report on ongoing activities – Amanda reported that the acquisition of a permanent trail connection between Town Forest and Community Park approved by the Council will be closing in the next few weeks. Other permanent trail connections continue to be pursued. Other work tasks include fielding inquiries on hunting. It was noted that the properties where hunting is allowed now have signs up year-round as there is something in season year-round.

5. Other business

- Member attendance – Lucky noted that all members had received a letter regarding the ordinance requirements on meeting attendance. Any member that has not been compliant was reappointed as the ordinance requirements were not well publicized to members. Membership attendance is now being tracked comprehensively for all committees. It was clarified that a new term starts the calculation of attendance requirements.

6. Adjourn – the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 am.