



LMAC (Land Management and Acquisitions Committee)

Members Present: John Adelman, Chair; Fred Farber; David Gagnon; Chris Kittredge and Casey Webster
Ex-officio Present: Jennifer Grimm, FLT Executive Director
Liaisons Present: Karen Jacobsen, Conservation Commission
Council Liaison Present: Caleb Hemphill, Town Council
Council Guest Present: Ted Asherman
Staff Present: Amanda Stearns, Open Space Manager and Lucky D'Ascanio, Parks and Community Programs Director
Guests: Joey Lavallee, Amy Lavallee, Mary Reany

Approved Meeting Notes Tuesday, November 12, 2019

1. **Call to Order-** Amanda called the meeting to order at approximately 8:35 am.
2. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes for September 17, 2019 were approved unanimously as written with a motion by Casey and a second by Dave.
3. **Eagle Scout Presentation** – Request for new trail at Hardy Road Conservation Area

Amanda introduced the item with an overview of the Hardy Road Conservation Area, which consists of three parcels, one being the old landfill site and the other two being subdivision open space set asides. The mapping of trails is not up to date on the trail finder app or on the printed maps. Joey Lavallee, Amy Lavallee and Mary Reany were present to present the project.

Joey defined the project as a possible Phase 1 and Phase 2 project that would include a loop trail connecting to existing trails and using the powerline as well as a connection from that to the end of Brookside Drive all on town property, about an estimated $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of trail total. There would need to be a bridge over Meader Brook. One small section if located where it works best on the ground would require permission from the Roches (R07-74-003 and U64-016). It is recognized that the access off Brookside Drive needs to be resolved. Items that need to be explored sorted are permissions from the Roches and CMP, what permitting would be necessary, trail standards, exact location of the trail, budget for materials and a plan for maintenance. This location and project was identified as they live in this neighborhood and this would increase recreational trail opportunities in the Hardy and Brook Road area. It is hopeful that the Scouts would approve the project and they could be ready for construction in the spring.

The committee was asked to comment, and it was the consensus of the committee that Joey should move forward with guidance from Amanda to continue to explore this project

understanding that there may be a need to abandon or modify the project as it moves forward. The committee requests that the proposed trails be flagged, and they be notified when that occurs so that a site visit can take place. It was also encouraged that they be in touch with the Roches and CMP to begin the conversation about permission.

4. **Trail Management**

- Electric Bicycle Policy – review of draft ordinance amendment – Amanda reviewed the draft ordinance in the packet, explaining that she had done what she believes is an exhausting review of the Code of Ordinances to identify all areas where electric bicycles and Class 1 in particular need to be addressed to assure that the modification of one section does not wrongly impact another section. Amanda has asked for a review by other relative departments. Comment made by the committee were:
 - a. Art. II-14-3 q. should remove Class 1 designation as all bicycles are excluded unless otherwise approved by the School department. Amanda will include the school department on the next distribution.
 - b. Jenny noted that there continue to be issues with mountain bikes in conservation areas.
 - c. Grammar for Sec. 17-1 needs to be corrected.

Next steps will be to modify the ordinance as noted, forward to legal for review and copy both the school department and staff working on the bike/ped plan.

- New Trail Proposal – North Falmouth Community Forest Babbidge Road – Amanda introduced this topic by first explaining the recent trail work done in NFCF off the Babbidge Road entrance (Item 5.below). The second LMAC work day was held on October 16 with the goal of creating a new primitive trail from the parking area off Babbidge to the top of the McLean field, then marking the woods road as the trail and combining the new trail with the existing snowmobile trail to connect to the Upper/Lower Hemlock Trails. This will allow for a more natural experience, removing traffic off the woods road that also serves as a snowmobile trail. A connector trail has been tentatively flagged that would connect from the new orange trail, go into the NE corner of the field and wind through the woods to connect to the Upper Hemlock Trail just west of the intersection with Oxford Woods Drive.

Fred and John noted that they had walked this possible new trail with Caleb and Amanda and feel that it would provide a nice trail connection to stay off the woods road and provide more direct access to the existing trail network. There is a drainage area that would need to be crossed and Caleb quickly estimated \$300-400 in materials necessary. Ted asked about a budget and also expressed that we are struggling with maintaining existing trails. With a motion by Fred and a second by Casey, the committee voted to put this new trail on the work plan for a future project, weighing it against other priority projects.

5. **Staff Report**

- Wyatt trail relocation – Amanda noted that the town had closed on the purchase of 1.25 acres, providing permanent access to a key portion of the Cross Falmouth Trail in between Community Park and Town Forest. Caleb, Ted and Amanda relocated the trail section onto the newly purchased property.
- NFCF – Babbidge Rd trail build – explained in Item 4 above.

- Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)– The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has issued an emergency order which includes Falmouth due to the discovery of the emerald ash borer in Portland. The order restricts the movement of ashwood so that the contamination will not spread. The town's forestry harvesting practices already comply with the certification program that assures that wood removed from town property is not infested. A group of staff have met with Paul Larrivee (207 Forestry Consulting Services) and are monitoring the situation. The presence of EAB is not a public health issue and considered a minor threat to our forests. Staff will keep LMAC informed moving forward.
- Consulting Forester – Amanda explained that the town has been receiving the services of Paul Larrivee through Sappi Paper Company for many years. Paul has recently left Sappi and is now working independently as 207 Forestry Consulting Services, LLC. Staff are negotiating a contract with Paul to maintain him as our consulting forester.
- Budget – FY21 – Lucky and Amanda reviewed the budget process with the committee. Capital budgets have been submitted and for Open Space this year it includes \$300,000 for land acquisition and money for implementation of road crossing signage and structures to better communicate to trail users and drivers where the Cross Falmouth Trail intersects with roads. Staff will return to LMAC in December to review the operating budget. This will include additional funds for some part time field staff. The Town Manager has also asked for a work plan through the end of FY21 including projects, projected costs and timeframes. This will also be presented to LMAC in December.

6. Other business

- Public Works request to review possible open space donation related to street acceptance – the committee reviewed the Open Space 1 parcel on the plan of Paddock, Cavendish and Killarney Ways. Due to the size, location and existing use of the parcel, it was the consensus of the committee that they would not recommend the town accept this parcel as part of the open space parcel due to its extremely low value.

7. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:40 am.

Next Meeting – December 10 – 8:30 am.