



LMAC (Land Management and Acquisitions Committee)

Members Present: John Adelman, Chair; Chris Kittredge, Vice Chair, Fred Farber; and David Gagnon
Ex-officio Present: Jennifer Grimm, FLT Executive Director
Liaisons Present: Michael Vance, FLT President, Karen Jacobsen, Conservation Commission
Council Liaison Present: Ted Asherman
Volunteer Guest: Caleb Hemphill
Staff Present: Amanda Stearns, Open Space Manager

Approved Meeting Notes Tuesday, September 15, 2020 – Via Zoom

1. **Call to Order** – John called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00am.
2. **Approval of Minutes** — The August 11, 2020 minutes were approved by a unanimous vote with a motion by John and a second by Chris.
3. **Property Management Plan Template** – Amanda presented the draft outline to be used moving forward for the updating of existing plans and the development of new plans. In general, the committee agreed with the template as written with the understanding it is a general template. Caleb inquired about the effort needed to write plans. Amanda responded that most properties have plans and the work is more about updating. Some plans are older than others and the updates may be simpler, depending on conditions and changes. The work plan from FY20-21 anticipates updating 2-3 plans a year.
4. **Edits to 2017 Pine Grove Management Plan** – The committee reviewed the draft plan after Amanda reviewed the highlights. Several modifications will be made:
 - a. Add a notation that includes red fox as a mammal that can be observed in Pine Grove.
 - b. Modify the role suggested by St. Mary's church based on information from a parishioner.
 - c. Leave list of tasks in plan but move time schedule and budget to comprehensive management spreadsheet

Trail review – The committee reviewed the mapping of the existing trails on the property. The types of trails to develop policy for are:

1. Unofficial connections to neighborhood development (consensus is to leave these but not mark them or indicate on map resources). The two noted were the one to private property along the north side of the property near Marker #9 and the one along the south side leading to Colonial Village.
2. Trails built to access bike jumps – there are multiple areas where this has occurred. Physical alteration of the trails and dismantling of the jumps should dissuade this use.
3. Unofficial trails built in the interior of the property. – the social trail in the SW corner with a bridge was discussed, appears to be a spur trail, perhaps used for birding.

Some factors to take into account are there any negative impacts to the ecology of the area to warrant removing trails, is there a public safety issue, does it interfere with the goals for the property? The committee will continue this discussion at their next meeting when the map is rectified.

Side Bar Discussion (Data Collection) – There was a recognition that the map prepared was difficult to read the trail data was not interpolated, but rather all tracks were displayed, showing multiple tracks where a trail was walked twice. This is no fault of the data collection nor the mapping, but rather the town's mapping consultant was not available to rectify the date. (Thanks to Fred for collecting the data and Chris for mapping so that we were able to chat about the trails.) Both Fred and Chris expressed an interest in helping with the infrastructure inventory currently being conducted. Amanda will follow up with Judy from Spatial Alternatives to schedule a meeting to see about getting everyone on board with the requirements so that they can participate.

5. **Trail Closure Policy** – The Committee reviewed the draft and with a few minor edits approved it to become an official policy and an appendix to the Trail Management Plan. The vote was unanimous with a motion by Fred and a second by Chris. The two edits are to add public safety to the list of criteria that might close trails and to make the method that trailheads are closed more generic to accommodate alternative methods.
6. **Blackstrap Hill Community Forest** – Amanda requested the committee consider a policy change to multi-use designation for the Flow Creek Trail and new trail parallel to the Hayfield Trail. Flow Creek was designed for downhill bike use and while technically it is open to pedestrian traffic, it is not recommended for pedestrian use. When the trail was constructed, the volunteer community offered to put in a pedestrian oriented trail on the opposite side of the Hayfield Trail to provide a more enjoyable experience as Hayfield is a snow mobile trail. Now that the new trail has been established, a consideration should be made to designate the Flow Creek Trail as bike traffic only and the new trail as foot traffic only. Several members suggested that we need to be adaptive as our user base changes. After some discussion, this will be continued to the October meeting.
7. **Update on Eagle Scout Projects** – Amanda noted that Eagle Scout Joey Lavallee, with guidance from Caleb, has completed the orange trail connector at NFCF, allowing for an alternative from Babbidge Road to the Hemlock trails. [Note: Dave Gagnon and Chris Kittredge assisted with the work.] Eagle Scout Max Polsky with guidance from Ted Asherman and Bob Shafto, will be completing his project at River Point Conservation Area on September 19 and 26.
8. **Other business** – Fred requested that the Tidewater trails situation be discussed further. Amanda noted that this will be placed on the October agenda. Caleb announced that he had been recommended by the Appointments Committee to serve on LMAC as a regular member and will be appointed at the Council's September 30 meeting. Everyone welcomed Caleb.
9. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:45 am.