



Long Range Planning Advisory Committee + (LPAC+)

Thursday, May 25, 2017 Minutes

Attendance:

Name	Present	Name	Present	Name	Present
Paul Bergkamp	-	Kurt Klebe	√	Breana Gersen	-
Sam Rudman	√	Sandra Lipsey	√	Becca Casey	√
Tom McKeon, PB representative	-	Ned Kitchel, Council Liaison to LPAC	√	Sarah Boudreau, Conservation Commission	-
Caleb Hemphill, Council Liaison to LMAC	-	Ted Asherman, LMAC	√	Jenny Grimm, Falmouth Land Trust	√
Lucky D'Ascanio, staff	-	Bob Shafto, Open Space Ombudsman	√	Dave Gagnon, LMAC	√
Theo Holtwijk, staff	√	Michael Vance, Falmouth Land Trust	√	Andrew Clark, staff	√

Sam started the meeting at 6:00 PM.

1. Review of Minutes

The draft minutes of the May 11, 2017 meeting were approved as written.

2. Falmouth Open Space Plan Discussion

Theo led the group through a packet of information framing the evening's discussion, including background data and definitions, and two activities for the committee to complete. He said the key goal of the meeting would be for the committee to get familiar with the "buckets" that different parcels might fall into, which will help guide the committee in defining different types of open space and in outlining the ultimate plan.

Sam sought clarification on LMAC's original definition for open space as being undeveloped parcels. Bob noted agricultural uses were also included, but not recreational uses. Sam wondered whether a new open space definition could be made. Dave pointed out considerable overlap between the developed and undeveloped open space. Ted agreed and said that the new plan could include undeveloped lands and recognize parks, and think "big picture".

The committee worked through an exercise to prioritize different kinds of open space for inclusion in the plan. Theo prepared a worksheet listing different kinds of open space and the committee rated their importance from 0 (do not consider in this plan) to 4 (key plan)

element/heavy emphasis). The worksheets were collected, and the ratings will be put into a spreadsheet and ranked. To avoid delay, staff will input the data later. The committee discussed some of their scores.

Theo asked if anyone had any zeros. Kurt listed several, including ballfields, basketball courts, and playgrounds. He said anything that was heavily built-up generally received a zero score for him. Sandra agreed, saying any spaces built-up for their purpose got a zero for her, like playgrounds, golf courses, parks, etc. Ted said that he had given many of these uses a one, and that while they were not the most important spaces, their existence had to be acknowledged.

Sam pointed out the Lincoln, Massachusetts plan had a more expansive open space definition. Theo noted that Lincoln includes recreational uses, but that may be due to a state mandate for such plans.

Theo asked if anyone had any fours. Ned had several, including deeryards, developed parks, grazing, farmlands, and wetlands. Kurt highlighted water access. Jenny noted that Falmouth is a coastal community, and expressed a priority for shellfish harvesting and a working waterfront at the Town Landing. Sam also had water as a four for conservation considerations. The committee decided to list water resources as a four.

Theo turned the group to another worksheet outlining potential bucket definitions, asking the committee members to rate the importance of including various buckets in the final plan based on the discussion thus far. These worksheets were also collected and their data will be tabulated later. The consensus was that the recreation bucket was of a lower priority, and the production and conservation buckets were of a higher priority (with the addition of shellfish harvesting to the production bucket).

Dave urged the committee to advocate for both recreation and conservation. He said he had no zeros because he deemed all spaces important. He felt that the committee's work will help to nudge future legislators to not abandon any open spaces. He cautioned to not let, for example, a ballfield get away from public ownership. Sandra said that existing built-up open spaces should not be rigidly held onto as the future is unknown. Dave disagreed and recalled a movement to sell the River Point Conservation Area parcel, which, he said, was strongly considered by the Council at the time. Ted recommended that certain properties should be protected in perpetuity. Theo noted that this topic should be a conversation to continue later.

Theo suggested that the next steps would be to process the data from the evening. He expected that that will provide a basis for the definition of open space. He asked for a subcommittee to work with staff on the wording of that definition. Kurt, Jenny, and Ted volunteered for that. Staff will also continue work on a database/inventory of open space parcels, and update past land use data.

Bob asked whether recreation would be included in the definition of open space. Theo replied that it seemed clear that the committee had not prioritized recreational uses, and that it was rated overall as perhaps a one. Ted noted that the committee will know for sure when the data is evaluated. He wondered why there was no parks and recreation plan for Falmouth.

Theo said that as the committee is embarking on a more conservation-production oriented plan, it might wish to consider recommending that the Council later pursue a separate parks and recreation plan. The committee liked that suggestion. Theo noted the open space plan he had worked on in Brunswick included open space, both in terms of habitat and conservation, as well as recreation, and even indoor recreation facilities.

Kurt wondered what kind of plan the Council would find most useful. Ned, as Council liaison, said that he had hoped that the committee would identify broader opportunities and recommendations.

Theo asked the group how they felt about the process thus far. Sam said that once the committee had updated data and definitions, the plan would fall into place. Ted said that the initial stages were helpful in educating the committee and getting the members on an even playing field. Kurt appreciated the expanded conversation and the potential for additional considerations in the new plan. Dave hoped the new plan will identify opportunities for the Council above and beyond the traditional open space definition, with a focus on connectivity and quality of life.

3. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 8th.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Draft minutes prepared by Andrew Clark, May 30, 2017.