



Long Range Planning Advisory Committee + (LPAC+)

Thursday, June 27, 2018
Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Name	Present	Name	Present	Name	Present
Sam Rudman <i>Chair</i>	✓	Ted Asherman <i>LMAC</i>	✓	Michael Vance <i>Falmouth Land Trust</i>	-
Sandra Lipsey <i>Vice Chair</i>	✓	Paul Bergkamp	✓	Jenny Grimm <i>Falmouth Land Trust</i>	✓
Caleb Hemphill <i>Council Chair</i>	✓	Sarah Boudreau <i>Conservation Commission</i>	✓	Amanda Stearns <i>Open Space Manager</i>	✓
Claudia King <i>Council Liaison to LPAC</i>	-	Becca Casey	-	Theo Holtwijk <i>Staff</i>	✓
Aaron Svedlow <i>Council Liaison to LMAC</i>	-	Dave Gagnon <i>LMAC</i>	-	Lucky D'Ascanio <i>Staff</i>	-
Rich Jordan <i>Planning Board</i>	✓	Breana Gersen	✓	Jim Chaousis	-

Others attending: Ron Scorsone, Theo Jordan, Councilor Kuhn

The meeting began at 6:00 pm.

1. Open Space Plan discussion

Sam asked everyone to introduce themselves. He then gave a brief intro to the plan.

Ron stated that he liked what he saw in the plan, that an update and education on open space were needed. He thought that in the case of the proposed development in West Falmouth, it would have been good to remind people of the open space plan before that development was reviewed.

Sam asked what Ron would do. Ron stated that he would emphasize the education component. People seem to want to make changes to the Comprehensive Plan.

Sam asked Theo what the Council typically does when it is presented with a recommended plan. Theo explained the process.

Ron stated that people are busy and that the plan needs to be kept in front of people. Jenny asked how that could be best done. She felt it was difficult to find specific documents on the Town's website. Sandra agreed that searching the Town's website was hard.

Sam wondered how the plan could be improved. Ron felt that the plan contained a repeat of open space history and recommended that this be put in an appendix. He also was not clear on where the development zones in Falmouth were. He meant by that the distinction between Growth and Rural Areas. Breana suggested explaining that in the introduction.

Sam asked Ron if he had looked at the maps, and what he thought of them. Ron said he had seen the maps. He wondered how the rating form was used, and suggested that the plan address how much farmland there is remaining in Falmouth, and have the community think about that.

Sandra commented that subdivisions are more restricted and less dense in the Rural Area. Ron agreed with that approach, but felt it was important that farms be kept as farms. Theo mentioned the example of Hurricane Valley Farm. Amanda mentioned the tools that are available to protect farms.

Breana asked Ron if he felt he had a clear understanding what “open space” is. Ron said yes.

Theo asked the group what they had heard from neighbors about the plan. Sam said one of his neighbors thought the plan was terrific. Paul said his neighbors were passionate about open space, but do not necessarily use any open spaces. Sandra felt that the Comprehensive Plan was much more controversial than the Open Space Plan. With the Comp Plan people wanted more debate. She added that there seems to be a real sense to continue what the Town has started and a pride in how the community has valued open space.

Sam wondered if people are generally aware of what is happening in town. Sandra replied that it was hard for people to envision connecting open spaces, that people seemed to value the effort to connect spaces, but that they did not necessarily know how or where to do that. Amanda added that identifying specific parcels that may represent opportunities in the plan is not done, and that general goals are described to fill that need. Sam noted that the issue of connecting open space became part of the development proposed by David Chase. He said that it was hard for people to imagine where the most advantageous connectivity in Falmouth might be, and that it is difficult to set specific goals for that. Amanda stated that the Town has its ears and eyes open for opportunities all the time. Sandra felt that it was a hard for residents to see and know that, and that therefore people needed to be educated. Amanda stated that it was a priority to secure unsecured trail segments, and that these are being negotiated. Amanda felt that more direction to Town staff was not needed, and that there should be trust in the administrative level. Sandra felt that it was important to convey this to the Council. Paul suggested that this could be clarified in the purpose statement.

Jenny added that it was a good idea to put the open space background in the appendices. Sandra countered that the plan as written reflected the committee’s sense for keeping education as an important element, and the committee should be careful as it may make the education goal seem not as urgent. She felt it was important to educate the reader. Amanda suggested that a 2-page brochure could be developed. Sam stated that this could be further addressed at the 7/12 meeting.

Sandra wondered who would get the assignment to develop a Parks and Recreation Plan. Theo stated that this was recommendation in the plan that was not that obvious. He stated that the Council at its summer retreat typically makes project assignments. Amanda stated that parks and recreation needs are addressed in practice, even in absence of a specific plan for that. It was an ongoing activity, she added. Sandra stated that young families are moving to South Portland and Scarborough, and not to Falmouth, and that without a Parks and Recreation Plan, Falmouth is falling behind. Jenny stated that all the committee could do is make a recommendation. Sam asked if the committee wanted to make a recommendation. Sandra stated that the struggle that the committee had with defining open space and deciding which parts of open space to

address in its plan may not get articulated to the Council. She felt this should be advocated to the Council, so this issue does not get lost. Paul added that the context is set by the growth area. If the Town increases density in the growth area, he said, what does that mean for recreation. It is important for growth and recreation to feel balanced, he stated. Sandra felt that Paul captured that idea well. Jenny suggested drafting a memo for the Council. Sam stated that if such a memo was prepared prior to the Council retreat it could be used then, if the Council wanted to. Paul will prepare a draft memo

Sam thanked Ron and the committee members for their input and adjourned the meeting.

2. Next meeting

The next LPAC meeting is scheduled for July 12, 6:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Draft minutes prepared by Theo Holtwijk, July 5, 2018.