

Resolution No 60-2017



TOWN OF FALMOUTH RESOLUTION

Development of an Update of the 2006 Greening of Falmouth Plan

- Whereas,** Falmouth’s first open space plan was adopted in 1989; and
- Whereas,** in 2004, the Long Range Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC) requested the Conservation Commission to update the 1989 plan; and
- Whereas,** the Council adopted *The Greening of Falmouth* plan in August 2006, created an Open Space Subcommittee of the Conservation Commission, and contracted for a part-time open space ombudsman to oversee the implementation of the plan; and
- Whereas,** the Open Space Subcommittee has since become Land Management & Acquisition Committee (LMAC); and
- Whereas,** the Open Space Subcommittee, for the purposes of its work, defined open space as “any non-developed land and water areas in the community. Open space may include woodland, wetlands, riparian corridors, farmland, orchards, and fields that serve a variety of functions: wildlife habitat, buffer zones, ecological protection, agriculture, passive public recreation, and scenic enjoyment;” and
- Whereas,** ten years have passed since adoption of *The Greening of Falmouth* plan;
- Whereas,** in September 2016 LMAC prepared a Ten-Year Progress Report, 2006-2016, that documents the implementation accomplishments of the *The Greening of Falmouth* plan; and
- Whereas,** LMAC notes in this report that, while the community has made a great deal of progress in protecting and managing open space, the next decade will offer additional opportunities and challenges, such as:
- maintaining public support for new open space acquisitions,
 - managing our open space properties for multiple uses,
 - finding a new generation of conservation leaders and volunteers, and
 - offering more opportunities for outdoor recreation and education to children and adults; and
- Whereas,** LMAC recommends creating a new open space plan that will guide this work in the coming decade; and
- Whereas,** the Council has included in its draft 2016-17 Work Plan, dated July 19, 2016, a high priority action item to develop a *Greening of Falmouth version 2.0* plan; and

Whereas, the Long Range Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC) has completed its current assignments and expressed interest in working on an updated open space plan as a complement to its work on growth areas and infill development; and

Whereas, the leadership of LMAC and LPAC met with Councilor Hemphill and Town staff to discuss a collaborative approach to this assignment; and

Whereas, the recommendation is for LPAC to take the lead on the open space plan update effort with input from LMAC, Conservation Commission, Falmouth Land Trust, and other interested parties; and

Whereas, LMAC, in addition to supporting the open space plan update effort, will continue with its role assigned by the Council which includes:

- identifying and assessing key properties for acquisition,
- creating strategies for acquisitions, and
- creating and implementing management plans for acquired properties.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL ASSEMBLED THIS 24TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2016, THAT:

1. The Town of Falmouth, Town Council, applauds the accomplishments of LMAC, open space ombudsman, and Falmouth Conservation Corps in implementing *The Greening of Falmouth* plan over the past decade; and
2. The Town of Falmouth, Town Council, agrees that an updated plan is needed to address ongoing open space opportunities and challenges; and
3. The Town of Falmouth, Town Council, believes that such a plan should follow the direction set by the 2013 Comprehensive Plan which identified growth and rural areas; and
4. The Town of Falmouth, Town Council, requests that LPAC prepare and recommend an update to *The Greening of Falmouth* plan; and
5. The Town of Falmouth, Town Council, for the purposes of the open space plan update assignment, expands the membership of LPAC with the following members:
 - Up to two liaisons of LMAC,
 - One liaison from Conservation Commission,
 - One liaison from Parks and Community Programs Advisory Committee (PAC-PAC), and
 - One liaison from the Falmouth Land Trust; and
6. The Town of Falmouth, Town Council requests that LPAC reports its progress to the Council on a regular basis, but no later than six months from adoption of this resolution.

Attest: _____
Ellen Planer, Town Clerk

Date: _____