

Land Management & Acquisition Committee Minutes

10 Mar 2015 Meeting #19

Present: Ted Asherman, Dave Gagnon, Bob Shafto, Analiese Larsen, Nathan Poore.
Absent: Fred Mascioangelo, Aaron Svedlow. Guests: Caleb Hemphill, Ed Braley.

Item #1: February 10th Minutes

In the absence of a quorum, no vote was taken on approval of the February minutes.

Item #2: Ecological Profile / Council Action

Ted and Aaron will present the ecological profile of our town conservation properties to the Council at their April 13th meeting. The question for them is "Does this inventory meet the need they identified at their Nov. 24th meeting?" If so, we will ask them to vote again on approval of the Blackstrap Hill Community Forest harvest plan, perhaps at that meeting or, if not then, at their April 27th meeting.

Item #3: Open Space Rating

The proposed changes to the Open Space Rating Form were approved. We will use the new form in rating to Foreside properties once the snow is gone.

Item #4: Map Project, Website Improvements

Members supported the idea of expanding the town and land trust's electronic map capabilities. Instead of a new version of the existing paper trail map, it was agreed that a much less expensive 3-fold town-wide map showing the location of our various accessible properties be produced. Together, these map options should meet the need.

Item #5: Updates

- The Woods Road Community Forest harvest should start this week. Attendance at the public meeting was light, with everyone present supporting the project.
- We have surveyor ready to lay out a two acre lot fronting Hadlock Road that can be sold to generate open space income. It currently is part of Hadlock Community Forest.
- We received \$8,041 in Recreational Trails Grant funding to make an existing trail in Woods Road Community Forest handicap accessible. We'll need to use ±\$2,100 of town funds to do the job.
- Bob is exploring the conservation development potential of the D. Hawkes parcel with David Chase.
- We need trail closure signs for hunting season. Bob and Caleb will meet and discuss.
- The Lion's Club donated \$500 to the Conservation Corps.
- Nesting bird surveys will be done in No. Falmouth, Hadlock & Woods Rd Community Forests, plus River Point Conservation Area, in June. The data collected will give us a good baseline for tracking bird population levels over time.
- LMF funds are apparently being held back by the Governor, throwing a monkey wrench in our plans to close on the four NCF properties we are ready to close on. We'll wait and see how the Legislative session plays out before reconsidering our options.
- We will not meet in April. The next meeting will be May 12th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.