

Town Council Special Meeting DRAFT Minutes October 28, 2013

The meeting was called to order at noon.

Roll Call

Nathan Poore read the roll call. Present: David Goldberg, Teresa Pierce, Karen Farber, Claudia King, Chris Orestis and Russ Anderson.

Sean Mahoney arrived at 12:15 PM.

Others present: Nathan Poore, Lucky D'Ascanio, Bob Shafto, Analiese Larson, Jed Harris, Dave Gagnon, Dan Hildreth, Caleb Hemphill, Ted Asherman and Fred Masciangelo.

Item 1 Presentation, field trip and discussion regarding the Town's open space program past, present and future to include goals, funding and management of properties.

Nathan Poore offered an introduction to the Town Council on the history of the Open Space acquisition program and a summary of what will happen throughout the day.

Bob Shafto delivered a PowerPoint presentation that provided background on the program.

Councilor Anderson asked about the invasive species management program. Bob Shafto described the program and defined invasive species. Councilor Orestis suggested that the Town consider an aggressive management plan that could then be managed on an annual basis.

Councilor Farber and other Councilors expressed concern about consistency with protecting vernal pools. It was suggested that land management plans consider recent town studies and efforts that offer recommendations on vernal pool protection especially when considering forestry management operations on public land.

Councilor Pierce asked about how we define parks, preserves, conservation areas, forests, open space and other labeled public lands. After a general discussion about what these labels imply, staff and LMAC will further consider how to refine and organize appropriate land labels. LMAC will develop a table that labels and describes the differences for all town public land including those parcels that have town facilities like the police station and public works garage.

Councilor Anderson suggested that a formal communication and possibly a marketing plan could help spread the word about the open space assets throughout town. He suggested use of multi-media, repetition and ongoing communication for the long term to achieve best results.

At approximately 1:30 PM the Council and all other participants boarded two Community Programs vehicles to tour the following properties:

- East Branch Turnout
- *River Point Conservation Area
- Blackstrap Hill Preserve
- Pride Farm Field
- *Suckfish Brook Conservation Area
- *Suckfish Brook South-Bog Walk
- North Falmouth Community Forest-Stillings Field

- North Falmouth Community Forest-Happy Cats Trail
- Blackstrap Hill Community Forest-Hurricane Road Trail Head
- *Hadlock Community Forest-Cross Falmouth Trail
- East Branch Conservation Area

*(Indicates walking tour of property)

The Council returned to Town Hall at approximately 5:00 PM and held a recess for 30 minutes.

At 5:30 PM, Nathan Poore offered a PowerPoint presentation on how the program has been financed during the past decade and Bob Shafto presented slides about land management and future options for land management.

The Town Council expressed general approval for how the program is currently managed and offered a suggestion that students continue to be part of the program. Councilor Pierce described the next step which is for the Town Council to consider an order that will adopt or endorse the nine specific land management plans being recommended by LMAC.

The Town Council thanked volunteers, LMAC, Falmouth Conservation Corp, the Falmouth Land Trust and staff for their efforts.

Item 2 Order to go into Executive Session pursuant to the Laws of Maine to discuss and consider the possible acquisition of land, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6) (C).

Councilor Mahoney moved the order; Councilor King seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the Council convened into executive session at 6:35 PM.

The Council reconvened in public session at 7:30 PM.

Item 3 Presentation and discussion about Open Space management.

Councilor Pierce described the day long work shop to the public in attendance in Council Chambers. She explained that originally, the PowerPoint offered earlier in the day would be delivered again at this time but due to the length of the day and the need to move on to the Regular Town Council meeting, the PowerPoint presentation would not be offered but is available on the Town's web site. She also explained that the public would have an opportunity to offer comments when the Council considers an order to adopt all of the land management plans later this year.

Adjourn

Councilor Mahoney moved to adjourn the special meeting; Councilor King seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nathan Poore
Town Manager