

## Lampson Brook Farm Board of Directors

Minutes: January 28, 2025

Board Attendance: Vanessa Farny, Gerard Kennedy, Jennifer Soper, Tammy Ryan, Jonathan Spiegel, David Haynes.

### **1. Introductions**

Board members introduced themselves. Stephen Andrews, DCAMM Director of Real Estate and Rayna Rubins, DCAMM Senior Project Manager introduced themselves as well as Barbara Hopson, MDAR State Land Licensing Program Coordinator Ryan Burke, MDAR Regional Planner, Jen Turner, Belchertown Selectboard, and Cheryll Toney Holley, Hassanamisco Nipmuc Band.

The Board approved a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting on June 17, 2025.

### **2. DCAMM response to survey and management plan**

The Board reviewed the proposed changes to the survey received from DCAMM, which included requested changes from MDAR and DCR. Vanessa Farny shared that Greg Gould from Sherman and Frydryk confirmed he could incorporate the new 20' easement requested by MDAR to provide access from George Hannum Street to Lot 9-148E along the current dirt access drive. The surveyor identified that the existing Easement K provides access to Parcel the Commercial Farm parcel (Lot 9-148L) as MDAR requested. The Board did not have any concern with the requests. A public comment identified the hay barn located inside the Enterprise Zone presently serves the Community Farm parcels and inquired whether that Barn should be included in the Community Farm parcel. The board agreed to follow-up to explore the issue. The Board approved a motion to postpone approval of the survey.

The Board proposed to postpone discussion of the Management Plan in the interest of time. DCAMM staff, Rayna Rubins identified the comments provided by DCAMM were gathered from MDAR and DCR.

### **3. DCAMM to share status update on amendments to Chapter 355 of the Acts of 2020**

Rayna Rubins had no further update on the status of any legislative amendments to Chapter 355 of the Acts of 2020.

### **4. Update on Conveyance of Commercial Farm Parcels to MDAR**

Gerard Kennedy provided a brief update on the conveyance of the Commercial Farm parcels. The survey needs to be on record before parcels can be conveyed. DCAMM has successfully transferred care and control of land to MDAR in the past, which provides a model for the Commercial Farm parcels. A board member requested that MDAR work to ensure legal agreements for the fields would ensure licensing fees are deposited to the Trust. The Board will continue to receive updates from MDAR on the process.

### **5. Nomination and vote for Vice Chair and/or other Board Officers**

Agenda item was postponed to the next meeting.

## **6. Other Items Raised by the Board**

The Board agreed to provide time on the agenda for an update and discussion of legislation recently filed (HD 3659 & HD 5543) intended to authorize conveyance of Lampson Brook Farm to the Nipmuc People and NESFI.

A board member expressed frustration with the current impasse over Ch. 355 of 2020, and updated the board that Belchertown Nipmuc Farm Alliance has filed HD 3659 to convey land to the Nipmuc and allow NESFI to maintain their presence. The board member expressed support of this legislation. Other Board Members confirmed they shared frustration with the delays, but reiterated support and commitment to work towards conveyances under Ch. 355 reiterating the process provides an opportunity for land to be conveyed to the Nipmuc. It was identified that the Board has made significant progress towards the completion of a survey and management plan and continues to seek solutions to the impasse around the authorization in Chapter 355 of the Acts of 2020.

## **7. Public Comments**

Comments from members of the public included a reminder that concerns of impartiality have been raised previously and that it continues to be important to bring different views together. It was reiterated that the focus should be on maintaining the Board's integrity, and members' efficacy at advocating for a successful path forward on behalf of the Board. Several Belchertown residents shared statements in support of the intent of the new legislation to convey land to the Nipmuck people and for the NESFI and Nipmuc to own & manage the property together.

The Board confirmed they would seek a date prior to March 30th to reconvene to vote to approve the survey, address the management plan and vote for Board Officers.

There was a unanimous vote to adjourn at 5:55 PM.