

Lampson Brook Farm Board of Directors  
Minutes: June 17, 2024

Board Attendance: David Haines, Jonathan Spiegel, Tammy Ryan, Gerard Kennedy, Jennifer Soper, Vanessa Farny, Bob O'Connor

Introductions: Each person introduced themselves including Jennifer Soper, the new Board representative for DCR and Vanessa Farny, the new representative for EEA. The Board reviewed the minutes from the last meeting on October 2, 2023 voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Greg Gould the project manager for the land survey from Sherman and Frydryk gave an overview of work on the project. All corner markers were installed and descriptions for future possible access easements to landlocked parcels were added in an exhibit in the plan. After a discussion on the survey plan, it was agreed that Greg would extend one of the easement descriptions (that accesses the lots 9-148 parcels) up to the EDIC property line so that it could be used in the future for a walking trail. With this addition, Greg will send Bob O'Connor the appropriate form and final plan to be submitted for sign off by the Belchertown Planning Board. The form will need to be signed by DCAMM as the current landowner for the Commonwealth. Once signed off, Greg will record the plan at the registry of deeds. The Board then voted unanimously to accept the plan with the edit Greg agreed to make on the easement and to send notice of this acceptance together with the plan to DCAMM.

The Board discussed the status of the amendments to Chapter 355 of the Acts of 2020 which had been agreed upon by the Board, DCAMM, and state Administration and Finance. There appears to be an impasse between the Belchertown state delegation and DCAMM on the need for these amendments to the law. The state delegation had received advice from counsel that the current law was adequate and DCAMM feels that it cannot act to transfer parcels to new owners with the current language. A staff person from Representative Saunders was at the meeting and agreed to bring up this issue with the Representative.

The Board discussed possible next steps to move the permanent conservation and stewardship of Lampson Brook Farm forward. There was agreement that a possible way to move forward would be to work with DCAMM on issuing a "Request for Interest" (RFI) from organizations interested in ownership and stewardship of the Forest, Community Farm, or Enterprise Zone parcels. While not a formal "Request for Proposals", an RFI would show what type of interest there currently is in the three parcels that are compatible with the values, principles, and goals in the LBF Management Plan and may be helpful in finding a path forward. Gerard Kennedy noted this approach has been taken with the farm parcels at the Former Templeton Developmental Center (TDC). As with TDC, the interested parties could tour the parcels. The tour could include a discussion among interested parties of their goals and future plans to see if there are common or complementary interests. The RFI process could build confidence with the DCAMM, the Board, and the Legislative Delegation for future coordination and collaboration. The Board then voted unanimously to have Board members draft and send a letter on behalf of

the Board to DCAMM and copying the Legislative Delegation, summarizing the RFI approach and its benefits to moving the conservation and stewardship of LBF forward.

The Board then discussed a possible replacement for Bob O'Connor as the Board Chair. A Board member then nominated Vanessa Farny (the new EEA Board representative) to be Board Chair. Vanessa agreed to be Board Chair if the Board would vote for a Vice Chair at the next meeting so that she could have help with the minutes and running the meetings. The Board voted unanimously to elect Vanessa Farny as the new Board Chair.

There was a unanimous vote to adjourn at 5:05 PM.