

Lampson Brook Farm (LBF) Board of Directors
Minutes: December 12, 2022

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

The Board introduced themselves and approved the November 1, 2022 minutes.

The Board discussed additional comments made to the Management Plan since it was approved to send to DCAMM at the November meeting. David Haines noted that potential bidders should be encouraged to save as many buildings as possible in their re-development proposals and this should be included in the rating criteria.

The Board discussed renewal of terms for Board members. The three Belchertown members were designated for two-year terms which need to be renewed by February 1st. These Board members will decide if they want to continue and then work with their respective Boards to consider their renewal or a new person to be assigned (if they choose not to continue). The Commonwealth agency Board members will check when their designations expire and consider renewal if necessary.

The Board then opened the meeting for public comments. One attendee asked if the Board will sunset. There was consensus on the Board that this was not the case, and their role goes on into the future. Another attendee asked if there was a proposal from the Nipmuc Tribe regarding the Lampson Brook Farm. Board members reiterated that both the Nipmuc Tribe and New England Small Farm Institute had presented their vision for the Farm at past Board meetings. A Board member asked if there was an update on the possibility of EEA funding a clean-up at the Enterprise Zone guided by the Weston and Sampson report. While this is being considered, there was no news on this issue.

Doug Albertson, the Belchertown Planning Director gave an update on the Town Bylaw for the Farm that did not pass at the Spring Town Meeting. The main concern with the Bylaw at the Town Meeting appeared to be the potential for housing on the Community Farm parcel. One improvement in the Bylaw could be to limit the area covered by the Bylaw to the Enterprise Zone and Jepson Farmstead. A public attendee asked about the impact of including the Jepson Farmstead. Doug clarified that while farmer housing is one of the allowed uses in the Bylaw, it would allow but not require this and so the final decision would be up to the parcel owners.

The Board then voted to end the public portion of the meeting and moved to Executive Session to discuss the request for proposals. The meeting was voted to be adjourned at 6:30. The next LBF Board meeting will be on Monday, January 23rd at 5:15 – 7:00.