

Lampson Brook Farm Board of Directors
Minutes: June 1, 2021

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

Introductions: Each person introduced themselves and the minutes from the May 18th meeting were approved.

Pete Westover from Conservation Works shared a draft outline of the Management Plan to the group. It was agreed the purpose of the Plan is to guide the Lampson Brook Farm's future management. There was a discussion on how the funds derived from each of the five parcels should be dedicated (to the Trust or kept with the parcel or some combination of both). This is significant because it will be important to balance the need for independence of the owners (so we have good proposals to the RFP and stewards in the future) but with enough Board and Farm Manager guidance so that the vision of the LBF is achieved and the top priority funding needs are met. It was agreed the Plan would outline a few options for how this balance might be achieved. It was also agreed that a ballpark estimate for the future funding requirements of each parcel is needed in the Plan. There was also a discussion of the farm manager – is that one person or the organization that owns the Community Farm parcel? Other farms that might be good models were discussed including the recent success MDAR had in obtaining a good diversity of farmers for licensing the 300 acres of state farmland in Templeton. The issue of irrigation for the farm was discussed – could wells be installed? The potential farming standards for the commercial and community parcels was discussed (pesticides, invasives, biodiversity, late mowing for birds, etc.). The potential for partnering with national or international regenerative farming organizations was discussed. The issue of who will own and maintain the farm roads that form the boundary between parcels was discussed. It was agreed that for now the farm roads that are boundaries need to be described separately in the upcoming Survey Plan so that the ownership can be decided later (perhaps after the RFP proposals are in). The ownership of the compost site adjacent to the landfill was discussed – would it go with the community or enterprise parcel? It was agreed that the compost site should be described in the Survey Plan so this could be decided later. There was a discussion of the Town Zoning requirements of the Enterprise Zone – is an exit road needed; how much frontage is needed; is the entrance road a private or public road; is the use an agricultural or commercial use (the land is zoned agricultural)? The enterprise zone could use the model zoning developed for the EDIC land at the former State School campus. If the enterprise zone is considered an “estate lot” it would need 50 feet of frontage. Would the re-configuring of buildings at the enterprise zone require site plan review by the Town? It was agreed that EEA would obtain bids for the Survey Plan and that the vendor would meet with the Board before and after the field work was done.

The Board agreed to meet on June 17th at 5:00 p.m. There will be a presentation by the People of Color Land Trust on relevant innovative ownership. A possible presentation at the meeting

after the 17th by the Belchertown Community Alliance was also discussed. There was a vote to adjourn at 6:35.