

Lampson Brook Farm (LBF) Board of Directors
Minutes: November 1, 2022

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

The Board introduced themselves and approved the September 13, 2022 minutes.

The following motion was made for the LBF Management Plan:

“Vote to approve the November 1, 2022 draft of the Lampson Brook Farm Management Plan to send to the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) for their comments with the intent to incorporate DCAMM's comments and during this time the Board will further finetune the Plan to be a more specific guide to future owners.”

There was a discussion following the motion. MDAR was asked what the criteria would be for selecting future farmers for license agreements on the Commercial Farm parcel. Would the criteria include preference to local and small farmers? Statewide criteria for farm licensing used by MDAR would be used. Gerard Kennedy will send the Board a sample of those criteria. A meeting between a couple of Board members and MDAR staff to discuss the approach and possible modifications was contemplated. The Board then voted 4-0 to adopt the motion.

The status of the amendments to the LBF law was discussed. Board member reached out to the local legislative delegation about this but because the Legislature is not in session until January were advised to wait until then. There will also be significant changes in the local delegation after the upcoming election.

Doug Albertson, the Town Planner for Belchertown discussed the future of the Agricultural Bylaw for the LBF, specifically the Enterprise Zone parcel. He thought the Bylaw would have a better chance of passage if the zone were limited just to the Enterprise Zone and Jepson Farmhouse parcels. There was a concern among Town Meeting attendees this Spring that the bylaw could allow housing to go on the Community Farm. It was agreed that the Bylaw is an important ordinance to guide the future use of the Enterprise Zone since it will not have a conservation or preservation restriction over it. It may also be helpful to limit the extent of housing on the Enterprise Zone parcel as the principle focus on this parcel is for agricultural related businesses that could support the rest of the farm. The next opportunity for passage of the Bylaw will be at the Spring Town Meeting in May.

There was a short discussion about the value of learning more about the Franklin County Community Development Corporation's food processing center in Greenfield. This facility was looked into as part of the LBF Management Plan process but a presentation from staff at the facility might be helpful for the Board at its next meeting.

Jonathan Spiegel gave an update on the proposal that had been submitted to the state's One Stop Portal to fund the clean-up of debris at the old dairy farm site. Unfortunately, the proposal was not funded.

During the Public Comment period, the issue of the time limits in the current LBF law was raised. The amendment would change the requirement for completion and approval of the survey and management plan from one to two years, but it will need to be changed to three years as the two-year time period will occur this coming January. It was also noted that appraisals for the parcels is required and perhaps the Board should look into getting appraisals done for the three parcels to get that phase of the project moving. It was agreed that these two ideas were very helpful.

The Board then ended 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 7:50. The next LBF Board meeting will be on Monday, December 12th at 5:00 – 7:00.