

Yarmouth Parks and Lands
Meeting minutes
November 1, 2023
Committee members:

Karyn MacNeill, YCS Director
Erik Donohoe, Parks Specialist
Zoe Wolf, Council Liason- absent

Mary Thorp (2025)
Vance Brown (2023)
Brian Caprari (2023)- chair
Lisa Small (2025)-absent
Joe Noel (2024)
Josh Royte (2024)
OPEN POSITION

Brian calls the meeting to order at 6:34 pm. *In person!*

Joe motions to accept the October minutes, Mary seconds. Unanimous.

Discussion of the joint meeting with the planning board. General feeling was positive. Karyn talks about 3 partnership properties ex. sledding hill, Lone Pine Lane and the Boston Post and the Riverfront Woods property. Vance asks about the procedure for acquiring property and asked how land trusts work. Joe wants to see more public awareness about the possibility of land acquisition.

Frank Knight Forest management plan:

Will go to the Town Council on November 7th. Karyn encourages us to be there if possible. Erik will present an expedited version with a map explaining the on-leash-only area and the reasons behind it. There is a slide on permanent protections for FKF. It will be a chance to advocate for money for future land acquisitions. Will also show possible areas for expansion. Additionally, Karyn will explain the special rules in the ordinance.

Karyn Updates: Big item is RR Concept plan. Reviews the task areas. Vance asks what are the permitted uses? Joe mentions that there are more electric bikes and skateboards on the trails. It is tough to differentiate in regulations. Karyn talks about eliminating a blind spot and widening the trail in places, which will allow more room to pass.

Also, there is discussion about signposts for location purposes. There have been 3 medical incidents where it was difficult for EMS to figure out where the person was located.

Vance asks about loops by Forest Falls. The river banks do not lend themselves to trails there.

Karyn also mentions the list for memorial benches and memorial trees. Need to review the guidelines.

2024 Work Plan Discussion:

Josh feels we should work on impact fees linked to economic development. What should be the next management plan we work on? Josh and Joe feel Soci should be back on our plate. Karyn mentions the lack of protections and the importance to recreation programming. Mary alludes to previous encroachments. It is also felt that we should review the invasives plan. Josh talks about climate action.

Other:

Brian would like to see a dedicated folder containing documents by year. It is often difficult to locate a particular version. Joe volunteers to help with this. Vance suggests an introduction packet for new members. Joe would like to see a list of completed tasks. Karyn remarks that this would help in preparation of the annual reports. Karyn also announces that the little "herblettes" will be ready for adoption. Group agrees that meeting in person and at 6:30 will continue for the time being.

Mary motions to adjourn, Joe seconds. Unanimous at 8:15pm.