

Yarmouth Parks and Lands

Meeting minutes

March 1, 2023

Committee members:

Karyn MacNeill, YCS Director
Heather Abbott, Council Liaison-abs.
Erik Donohoe, Parks Specialist

Mary Thorp (2025)

Ron Dupuis (2024), chair

Vance Brown (2023)

Brian Caprari (2023)

Lisa Small (2025)

Joe Noel (2024)

Josh Royte (2024)

Guest: Mike Brandimarte, tree committee

Ron calls the meeting to order at 6:04pmm

Acceptance of February minutes: Lisa motions, Brian seconds, unanimous.

Karyn updates:

Shoreland remodel on Princes Point. Contract zoning proposal.

Mary asks about the Soci property. Apparently a deed search was conducted and there has been no further progress.

YCS currently involved in the budget process. Our portion is on the March 22 docket.

Erik updates:

Has been work on the invasives project in Royal River Park Revitalization Project.

Mike Brandimarte gives a presentation. Steve is the co-chair of this subcommittee.

Committee feels it is a gem and want to do a pilot project before the corridor master plan. Don't want to duplicate efforts.

There are 6 project zones: picnic pt., foundry, retaining wall, factory falls, Rowe backyard, and park woods.

Test site would be picnic point and foundry bypass channel outflow. This area is heavily used by dog walkers. Would try to re-vegetate it.

Brian asks about the possible removal of the dam affecting these plans? Erosion issue? How close is dam removal if approved?

Karyn responds that the town council is checking the water quality soon.

Josh adds that he was involved with the draw down. The water levels should not change too much between the current dams.

Josh advises to do invasive removal in pieces. Even the invasive thickets help migrating birds for example. Don't just wipe it out. Josh stresses to be careful; his preference is to encourage natives while being careful about concentrations of buckthorn, barberry, honeysuckle, and bittersweet. Ex. native red dogwood may be a good choice.

Mike responds that the committee is considering some approved herbicides. Josh cautions about sensitive areas.

Erik suggests willow stakes underneath the buckthorn. Asks if anyone has connections to a landscape architect?

Vance asks about the permitting.

Erik replies that he has met with Nick (code enforcement). Would do it piecemeal ex. treating vine removal. Most could be done with planning board review.

Karyn states that we have a landscape architect for the RRPark project.

Josh asks if something could be sketched up.

Ron asks if a letter of support from the PLC is in order. Lisa volunteers to help.

Lisa also mentions consulting with the Wild Seed project for suggestions.

Erik Further Updates:

Wetlands: naturalizing grant from Casco Bay Estuary Partners (matching)

Josh asks about the educational component. Suggests using template.

It is a \$5000 grant with matching money from the state (hopefully).

Spear Farm boardwalk project is still moving forward. Waived to Tier 1 permit.

YCare has met with Erik and Karyn. Looking at a history of properties. Ex. naming of trails in Riverfront Woods. Have a land acknowledgement statement. Gently treading forward. Has a mini-task force.

Josh states that the Nature Conservancy and many other groups are also working on this.

Lisa adds that signage will help.

Frank Knight Forest Management Plan:

The plan went out to the staff.

Erin looked at the mobile home overlay. Does not think it would preclude a conservation easement. Will research further.

Timeline: Plan should go to abutters. Karyn suggests going to both Condo association meetings to discuss, instead of having them come to us. Condos are Brookside and the Bluffs.

Lisa and Josh mention that the plan looks great. Ron says it initially looks good but will review it further.

Karyn says the plan first goes to the abutters, then to a public meeting, then the town council. (PLC would need to approve the final plan at this point).

Karyn says that we need a clean copy by the second week of March. Vance agrees. Joe will also really comb through it, but so far, so good.

Draft letter- Joe sent out to us. Removed a number of references.

New Business:

Brian notes that there are many mentions about “poop” on the town comments page.

Karyn says that snowstorms have impeded cleanup efforts but is looking for volunteers for April Stools Day.

Brian mentions that after Clam Festival, there is a lot of trash from fireworks debris. Any chance at getting a sponsorship for cleanup? Karyn mentions the new pet store as a possibility.

Brian motions to adjourn. Vance seconds. Adjourned at 7:24 pm.