

Yarmouth Parks and Lands
Meeting minutes
May 4, 2022

Committee members:

Karyn MacNeill, YCS Director
Tim Shannon, Council Liaison- late
Erik Donohoe, Parks Specialist

Mary Thorp (2022)
Ron Dupuis (2024), chair
Vance Brown (2023)-abs.
Clyde Hodgkin (2023)
Lisa Small (2022)
Joe Noel (2024)
Josh Royte (2024)

Ron calls the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.
Motion to accept April minutes-Josh. Ron seconds. Unanimous.

Workplan: Everyone agrees that it looks good and the committee has voted to accept it. Karyn will forward to the council.

Erik updates: Spear Farm will require a DEP review for parts of the plan. Will move forward on the permitting. Upgrade to boardwalk will be done in a couple of years. WC#3 will be done this year. Should be straightforward.

Area #9 to the salt marsh is getting beat up. DEP- what are options? The town has the most say. Erik mentions a 4 ft. wide strip with permeable material for salt grass could be the "water access".

Josh stresses how delicate the salt marsh is and Mary says there are many other priorities than water access at this site.

Erik says the first step is a waiver for a lower permitting process which the DEP and town must agree to.

Another project was replacement of the trail bridge from Rogers Rd. to the ball fields on North.

Westside Trails- Dan Ostrye is moving forward with work groups.

Invasive Vegetation Control: Ron, Josh and Erik met. Trying to decide the best way to execute the plan under the budget constraints. \$18K up to \$24k. Looking at creative ways to utilize volunteer groups. There is a potential for pesticide license in-house.

Ron says to look at the plan as a working document to be re-evaluated in the fall.

Josh thinks in-house licensing is a good idea. Stresses the need for accurate mapping. Asks about student volunteers.

Planning Board: Karyn updates. Stresses the planning board info is on the website.

Upcoming are 109 Sunset Point and 90 Main St. near Goffs. Asks us to review Hancock Lumber (due the end of the month). Sunset Pt. involves planning board and shoreland codes. Asks for a review of what trees are in and what are out. Lisa says the tree committee will look into that.

Ron asks about when PLC has provided input. What is the process? How do we decide what to look at before a meeting and whether to weigh in?

Lisa says she reaches out to Erin. Theoretically, we should designate 1 person for planning board notification. Ron will reach out.

Mary asks if our input seems to make a difference? The general answer is "somewhat". Josh says letting the planning board know that some PLC members have several areas of expertise is important. And Lisa says the cumulative effect is there when we submit meaningful commentary. Karyn suggests using a bullet format for ease in reading comments.

Josh stresses that we should also submit *positive* comments.

Tree Committee: Lisa

The committee (now official) has met and has chosen the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:00 for regular meetings. Of particular concern is the Emerald Ash Borer. Karyn has chosen a vendor (vetted) and is awaiting the contract. There are 2 tiers- 1 and 2. We can do everything this first year.

Lisa says the committee has also drafted a species list for replacement trees if ashes go down. Has met with the Wild Seed Project (office in NY).

There is a statewide planting project for schools. Also encouraging planting a single tree for each graduating class.

Additionally, looking for sites that could "foster" nursery trees for later planting by the town.

Ron updates:

Met with Dan Ostrye on Sandpiper Cove dock- v. large to service 7-8 houses. Area is popular with kayakers. Concern about community dinghies and docks making the shore more difficult to navigate.

Josh likes a checklist idea for review of projects. Ron says that will be part of his conversation with Erin, the town planner. Ron also asks for us to submit items for discussion ahead of time for June 1st meeting.

Adjourn- Mary motions, Lisa seconds. Unanimous at 7:15 pm.