

Yarmouth Parks and Lands  
Meeting minutes  
December 6, 2023  
Committee members:

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

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

Brian calls the meeting to order at 6:38 pm *in person*.

Vance motions to accept the minutes, Josh seconds. Unanimous.

**Erik updates:**

Temporary trail signs have been installed at Riverfront, using dual language. Ron Siviski was a big help. Josh asks about kiosks.  
The first of the Spear Farm boardwalks is done.  
Invasive removal has been started at picnic point. Hope to do spring replanting. Lisa says kudos on the area that is cleared already. Josh asks if there is signage to explain what is being done. Erik says yes.  
Erik hopes to get the Westside Trail project out to bid (gravel) for the U.A. trail section by Hillside. Josh comments that it is a “sweet trail”.

**Royal River improvements:**

Lisa, Josh, Joe, and Brian were on the walk.  
Karyn says the white flagging depicts the path alternative. Brian mentions the parking lot and that one spot is pretty steep. Karyn says they are watching the water flow. Josh mentions the roots of the old apple tree and the need to be careful.  
There is concern about backing up from the handicap spot being an issue. Karyn says that can be realigned.  
Brian asks if the steep run-off section can be put between trees- sections 8 and 9 on the map. Also asks about section 13 nearer the cistern. May be able to cut and fill and remove the invasive honeysuckle.  
Karyn mentions that section 10 could be paved from the fork to the connector. It would make the overlook more peaceful, also. Below sect. 13 will have outdoor musical instruments. And in #12, rebar will be removed.  
Vance asks about historical signage. There are some VIS funds. Karyn says possible 3 additional signs.

**Karyn Updates:**

Is looking for estimates from companies. TIFF dollars for signage and materials. Will do village parks first. Josh asks about graffiti.

**2024 Work Plan discussion:**

Karyn has met with the program advisory committee. Vance asks about natural areas vs. recreational opportunities.

*Discussion of Camp Soci being the next management plan.* Karyn feels that Soci is important in YCS programming. Josh stresses the importance of connectivity with Sandy Point ex. crosswalk. Mary mentions the historical background and will contact Judy Elfring and the history center.

Discussion of impact fee policy. The Planning Board is deep into the Comp Plan. Karyn says that impact fees are the slowest way to get needed funds for land purchases.

Karyn talks of finalizing the Sunset Point easement.

Vance is concerned about protections for all of our open spaces and parks.

Lisa and Josh raise concerns about resource protection.

Further tweaking of the language on the Work Plan (Karyn- did you get these?)

AND: added "reviews all planning board applications"

"Provided valuable input for Comp Plan"

"Provided input on over six projects brought before the planning board"

"Developed a land acknowledgement statement and developed multicultural signage in Riverfront Woods"

**Other Business:**

No applicants have applied as yet.

Brian and Vance are both willing to be re-appointed.

Josh votes to adjourn. Lisa seconds. Unanimous. (time unrecorded- oops).