

Yarmouth Parks and Lands

Meeting minutes

August 4, 2021

Committee members:

Karyn MacNeill, YCS Director-exc.  
Tim Shannon, Council Liaison-abs.  
Erik Donohoe, Parks Specialist

Lisa Small (2022)

Mary Thorp (2022)

Ron Dupuis (2021)-temp chair

Vance Brown (2023)

Ebrahim Fazeli (2021)-abs.

Karen Massey (2021)-exc.

Matt Cannon (2023)

Meeting is called to order at 6:04pm by Ron *in person*.

July minutes are accepted- (Lisa motions, Ron seconds, passes with one abstention).

Introductions are made to welcome Vance Brown, our new member.

### **Updates: Erik**

RFW carriage trail is now UA to the first outlook. Hope eventually to get it to the river.

Have had 3 good candidates interview for assistant to Erik.

Erik talks of the Boy Scout project concerning habitats. It is a science-based habitat ID project that could be used on the Open Space Guide with data points.

Mary mentions that Matt (the Boy Scout) will be looking for volunteers once the project is approved by BS Council.

Vance asks if it is only about birds. Erik replies that it is about vegetative sites.

Matt Cannon mentions that he will be helping Erik monitor boundaries of parks in the fall.

### **Bench Policy:**

Erik states that black benches are for in-town and that YCS has received roughly 10-12 requests.

Ron reads some of the bench memo.

Lisa asks why some requests are turned down and says the Westside Trail benches are different that anything else in town. Asks if there are distinctions between parks and preserves. Vance asks if people pay for them and mentions that there are other memorials besides benches that might be appropriate.

Mary suggests tabling this discussion until Karen and Karyn can both be present. Committee agrees.

### **Naming of Properties:**

While Village Run Hill seems to have general consensus, Mary questions the name of the Sligo Road property since there is very little "field" there. Erik describes it as mostly wooded and somewhat wet once past the water district area. Lisa and Mary will view before the next meeting and take pictures to share per Vance's suggestion.

**CIP Discussion:**

Lisa asks if there is money for new signs via a line item. Lisa says that 3 types are envisioned: a. large post and panel b. banner for smaller village parks c. flag-smaller parks.

Erik brings up price estimates for different types. Granite most expensive.

Matt inquires about the posts- are the metal ones aluminum? Covered with vinyl?

Vance asks about shelf-life. How durable are these?

Mary and Lisa like the logo in an oval. Also, per Lisa's questioning, group seems to like the curves on the large signs and white lines.

Re: the flag style with just one post, Vance asks about durability. Are they easily damaged?

**Dog Ordinance:**

Generally the committee backs the groups that came up with the new ordinance. No big issues with it.

**Frank Knight Forest management plan:**

Erik has put out the survey on Facebook and will resend the link to committee. Should be on town website soon. Has received some input from abutters. Mr. Garland concerned about encroachment on his property. Erik hopes a subgroup with Josh Royte will be up and running by the fall.

**Work Plan discussion:**

Mary asks if it has already been sent to the council. Erik says yes, but asks how we implement it. Committee talks of a timeline. We need to prioritize the list and decide on next steps. How do we implement the open space plans?

All are concerned about permanent protections to our parks. Suggested that all look into that. Committee explains a bit about Soci boundary to Vance.

**Other:**

Erik says they are applying for an RTP grant to finish off WestSide trail.

Also the Rails to Trail possible corridor is discussed. Committee is behind the proposal.

Motion to adjourn- Lisa. Vance seconds. Adjourned 7:16pm.