

Oct. 4th, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Karyn, Lisa, Josh, Brian, Mary
Minute Taker: Joe Noel

Minutes

6:35 PM - Call to Order

Brian calls the meeting to order.

6:36 - Prior Meeting's Minutes

- Josh **motions** to approve last month's minutes.
- Lisa **seconds**.
- **Vote: Unanimous approval.**

6:36 - Riverfront Preserve Walk

- Josh & Brian were in attendance with the Rotary Club, YCARE, and Ron S.
- Brian read the land acknowledgement.
- Josh led a walk.
- Josh: Land acknowledgement was really well-received, especially by tribal attendees. People teared up! Kids asked questions and pointed things out. Overall a really lovely walk/trip.
 - Some footage was taken.
- Karyn: YCARE sent a very nice summary and description of the event. Sent along to the town council. Potential nudge to get the town to accept a land acknowledgement statement town-wide.

6:40 - Nuance Dental Comments

- Brian: comments not due until the 13th.
- Please forward comments to the Committee
- Non-porous materials are going to be shrunk from original plans, which is good.
- Lisa: We were positive about this in the Tree Committee. There's a large increase in street trees, plantings, and impervious materials.
- Mary: Not much to discuss here, given Lisa's comments.
- Josh: Echoing that we should commend their plans.

6:50 - YCS and Town Updates

- Karyn: 251 W. Main Street property–5pm site walk on October 16th with Planning Board.

- We are having a *lot* of complaints around hunting issues. Tree stands were in our properties for the last 9 days. We have requested that they take their stands down.
 - Expanded Archery began in early September. Bow began at Pratt's in Oct, and has continued at other sites. Oct/Nov are the big open seasons.
 - Josh: What is the expectation of the deer stand?
 - Karyn: It should be registered if it is left up. Tagged. That way if something happens there is a chain of responsibility.
 - Josh: Consider future agenda-we give them the deer stand rules as they register for hunting.
 - Karyn: They get them in the bulk rules, but they aren't emphasized. These aren't on the trails...so they're being reported by other hunters!
- Joe Garland(? Billings property owner) appreciates the work we've done with signage and protecting his/our border. Frank Knight Management Plan hasn't been on the town council meeting docket yet.
 - Brian: The FKF management plan online doesn't have anything that we've proposed.
 - Karyn: I did tell Joe about the proposed dog plan/change.
- Survey and Topology assessment has completed the research phase for Royal River Park.
 - Next step will be to contract with a design and engineering firm to get into the planning board schedule.
 - Hopefully Karyn will be able to push through winter. Potentially 40-50 days prior. December at the earliest.
 - Two pieces. 1) Tennis Courts. 2) Rest of site.

7:00 - Frank Knight Forest Updates/Next Steps

- (Discussion was covered in Karyn's Town updates).

7:09 - Joint Meeting with Planning Board

- Brian: Late October, the 25th. What do we want to present? I have Ron's materials from last year. I could do an updated version covering what we completed in the past year and what we are waiting on/working on moving forward.
 - I will forward this to everyone else and we can discuss. Looking for feedback.
- Lisa: Do we have the 2023 work plan?
 - Brian: I couldn't find it. Unsure if we solidified anything.
 - Karyn: I know we started one. At some point it was discussed that it had not been finalized but...
 - Royal River project will be an \$800,000 project. Planning board might partner/buddy up with us on that.
 - Lisa: Let's update what we've done and go with that in hand.

- Joe: I think we should potentially have a plan we discuss and finalize by February, return to it June/July, and sum it up in Q4.
- Josh: Let's make sure we have one. A short slideshow could be a really cool end-of-year lookback. I think we'll be more involved with the Comprehensive Plan into next year as well. Dovetailing with our planning board presentation.
- Brian: Let's get the plan feedback returned by the 13th.
- Josh: For photos, Bob Dushane (sp?) Nat Geo photographer would love to submit work for our purposes.

7:20 - Yarmouth Comprehensive Plan, PLC Stance and Statements

- Brian: Lisa, Vance, Joe, and myself were in attendance. We gave more or less aligned feedback. It occurred to me that we could communicate more forcefully as a group, but also it's important to define our stances as either "the committee" or as individuals.
 - Lisa: We signed off on the 2017 land acquisition strategy document and Parks and Open Spaces plan.
 - Josh: I hope the non-public data we gave to Erin for the GIS analysis is being used appropriately. I think we should come to a collective consensus and announce publicly when we're stating that for the public.
 - Lisa: Map layers could be a subject to discuss with the Planning Board.
 - Josh: I think they would be a huge tool for this entire process.
 - Lisa: I feel that the Planning Board should be charged with considering all their decisions with how well they agree with the goals of the Open Space plan.
 - Joe: My take is usually that comments made are our personal feelings—if we are going to make a Parks and Land comment we huddle up, reach consensus, then comment.
- Brian: Joe's approach seems fine.
- Brian: I might not be able to make the next meeting. I'd like if someone could, so we can express opinion.
- Josh: I'll be at that one.

7:32 - Tree Committee Updates

- Lisa: At our last meeting, the lion's share was a discussion with the Climate Action Task Force. CATF were very clear that they are going to make the Open Space Plan a part of their recommendations to the town. They are emphasizing green space.
 - Trees were left off the prioritization list. Lisa mentioned it on the mic, and we added it (at our table) to the public concern/prioritization list.
- Brian: Caroline Norden(?) mentioned the Open Space Plan multiple times.

7:37 - New Business

Replacing Ron

- Mary: Where do we stand?
 - Karyn: No other new applicants thus far.
 - Mary: should we encourage?
 - Karyn: YES
 - Joe: Maybe a flyer in Clayton's or Cuppa Joe's?
- Josh: Do we have new resident materials to send to folks?
 - Karyn: We have the website/town posting/etc. Anyone that comes through our office gets the walkthrough of the office.

In-Person Live Meeting?

- Brian: I wanted to bring this up. The space this meeting used to take up is reserved
 - Karyn: We have YCS space, as well as public buildings after hours.
- Josh: I like the idea of planning it quarterly (well in advance), or more often. With online meetings in-between.
- Mary: I prefer them in-person but I could go either way.
- Karyn: I would just book the space every month. It wouldn't be an issue. "Hybrid" makes me nervous given Council's technology issues.
- Brian: I think we aim for discussing in another meeting, and then scheduling out into January.
- Josh: I'm good with Nov 1st!
- **Joe motions to meet in person November 1st.**
 - **Brian seconds.**
 - **Vote: Unanimous approval.**

7:53 PM - Meeting Adjourned

- Mary **motions** to adjourn.
 - Brian **seconds.**
 - **Vote: Unanimous Approval.**