

Yarmouth Parks and Lands  
Meeting minutes  
Jan. 19, 2022

Committee members:

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

Mary Thorp (2022)  
Ron Dupuis (2024), chair  
Vance Brown (2023)  
Ebrahim Fazeli (2023)-excused  
Lisa Small (2022)  
Joe Noel (2024)  
Josh Royte (2024)

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

Acceptance of January 20, 2022 minutes. Lisa motions, Josh seconds, unanimous.

**Introduction of committee members:**

Joe is originally from Kingfield, a teacher, has hiked the AT, was on the recycling committee, married with (now) 3 children.

Josh was a founding member of this committee, works for the Nature Conservancy, involved in the Open Space Plan

**Erik Updates:**

YCare will help with the Riverfront Woods trail signs.

Shares invasive surveys (FKF) for format. Josh likes targeted mapping and info on how to sustain efforts. Lisa is very pleased and said it seems well thought out. Ron likes the goals and actions.

Talks of prioritizing action items when the plans are done.

Josh stresses the need for a town-wide approach.

Vance asks for clarification on what constitutes an “invasive”?

Erik sites the state list. Primarily consists of things European settlers brought which became naturalized and are out-competing native species. Their introduction can change insect populations along with plant and animal habitat.

Karyn shares mission statement. There are shared areas of responsibility with the planning board and the town council (on the Town of Yarmouth website). This has shared codes and ordinances. Special regulations are listed also.

Josh asks where PLC is mentioned as requested in ordinances and plan reviews. Karyn will check with Erin and also with Ed Ashley.

## **Planning Board Reviews:**

*NYA:*

Mary expresses dismay at the length and the difficulty finding what is pertinent to the committee.

Lisa and Mary are frustrated about the time to download from home computers.

Karyn scrolls through to the site map. Ron talks about the visual design and landscape comments.

Karyn says there is a 1 to 1 replacement of trees. The physical plan changes by a new addition (fitness facility?). Concerned with drainage.

Mary asks if the amount of paved area changes? Ron is told that the lighting should remain the same.

Josh is concerned with the sloping to the skating pond (erosion) and vegetation growing into the pond. Nutrients can change the water quality and will eventually go into the river.

Karyn is concerned with the possible storm water runoff increase??

Joe asks about the replacement trees- are these now surrounded by sidewalk??

Mary asks for clarification on pond ownership. The town now owns the pond. Also wants to make sure that NYA uses the list of recommended trees.

Vance is concerned about the wetlands near the pond. Also wants trees that can thrive.

Josh makes a point about native trees vs. non-invasive trees vs. city trees. Is also very concerned with run-off. There could be a treatment opportunity with a small retention berm.

Mary wonders where the ice generated from the indoor skating rink goes. Is told it is not longer the issue it once was i.e. no longer gets dumped behind the building.

By next week, Ron will put our thoughts together and get our input to submit to the planning board.

*Rail Road Square:*

Another complex review. Karyn asks for a sub-committee. Mary, Ron, and Josh volunteer.

Tim wonders about the timeframe on the proposal. Mary requests the documents (maps) to review.

## **Work Plan (refer to provisional document):**

Karyn shares suggested plan.

Joe and Tim want to know if there is a current plan for land acquisition. Josh and Lisa feels there should be a prioritization of parcels.

Also mentions that a sign standard would help with this.

Joe explains that he is a technical writer and can help with these things.

Lisa feels invasive plan management should be emphasized. Erik concurs.

Vance wants to tie items 4 and 5 together.

Tim mentions that impact fees are constrained by state law and do not generate a ton of revenue.

Josh talks about estate planning along with donations and grants.

Adjourns at 7:35pm. Mary motions, Vance seconds, unanimous.