

Yarmouth Parks and Lands

Meeting minutes

February 3, 2021

Committee members:

Lisa Small (2022)
Mary Thorp (2022)
Ron Dupuis (2021)
Richard Brimberg (2023)
Ebrahim Fazeli (2021)
Karen Massey (2021), Chair
Matt Cannon (2023)

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

Karen Massey calls the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

Lisa motions to accept the January 6th minutes. Richard seconds. Unanimous.

Project updates:

Erik—Wants input on name for trail and area off Lone Pine Drive. After discussion, Boston Post Meadow is chosen due to its historical reference. Karen mentions the large number of bikers on weekends. Matt asks if it will be mowed so it continues to be a meadow. Erik says yes. Mary asks about the timing due to potential bird nesting. Karyn says that this will be monitored especially after an assessment is done on the flora and fauna of the area.

Talks about a revised version of the Open Space Guide to be on-line with a smaller scale printed version.

Emma and Erik hope to have a draft next meeting? Eb asks if any Yarmouth tech-savvy student might be able to help. There are some access issues with the GIS account for the towns. Mary suggests students may be able to help with bird inventories and Eb suggests reaching out to the schools.

Karyn—Mary Webber's project goes to the planning board on the 10th. There is another similar request being presented on a Portland/High St. double lot.

The new Story Walk has been installed at Tinker's Field (*Lost. Found.*) in cooperation with WinterKids.

Hoping to have another book soon that incorporates nature and movement. Suggestions? Other town story walks? Mary asks if the previous story walk is still viable. Is told that it is in storage.

Land and Water Conservation grant, etc.:

Grant proposal is due by the end of May. Environmental impact is done. Regina Leonard is working on the proposal. Can view by clicking on open space button and choosing RRPark improvement page. Will need a public session for input within the next month. Survey is set to go out next week. Public meeting by Mid-March. Eb asks if we need a quorum at that meeting? *Not for a public session* is the answer.

Discussion of RR Concept diagrams: Wetlands are the ones with double rings. Updated Rowe School addition. Bridge repair- @\$100,000. Moving path near overlook could save 40,000 to 50,000 dollars. Would upgrade to ADA and increase visibility to stage by shifting the performance area. May be slight expansion to parking area. Would encourage signage to show other travel options and parking areas near the performance stage. Ron asks about orange line? Shoreland setback. Matt asks about public input? Combination of PLC and Town Council. Richard states that it looks good, but can see some debate about the rerouting.

Karyn stresses the importance of applying for this federal grant. It is an opportunity to replace the existing tennis courts. Lisa wants to look at the invasives near the river as part of the greenscape. Karyn suggests a Wed. in March-- 24th or 31st. and will send out a link to the survey.

Carry In-Carry Out:

Karyn says that trash dumping at the parks has become a real problem ex. household trash. Budget does not support increased emptying of the containers. Also requires two staff to lift the heavy barrels. If Yarmouth goes to paid trash bags, this will increase the illegal dumping.

Ron feels education is needed and suggest Recycling Committee help. Mary says the Scouts have been doing this for years and would buy in to a carry in-carry out program. Eb asks about the remote parks. Karyn explains that most barrels are removed in winter and she is hoping not to put them back out. Richard supports "carry in-carry out" in the parks. Karyn states there will be possible exceptions ie. athletic fields, Main St. parks. Vote to use educational signs- Unanimous. PLC also supports carry-in, carry-out.

Lisa suggests a catchy slogan and Eb suggests an article in the Notes. Feeling about the messaging is to "keep it simple". Matt mentions "Leave no trace" and says his favorite sign is on the Westside Trail. Karyn asks Matt for suggestions.

Land Acquisition Strategies: Matt asks what has been done in the past in order to plan for the future? What is the process? Karen says that it would be helpful for all of us to look at the Open Space Plan and the Land Acquisition Plan again. Karyn will send this out to us.

Karen states there are some maps in the Open Space Plan that would be helpful to look at. Also states that the RRCT has been involved. Suggests looking at the documents and reaching out to RRCT.

Matt asks how we get land? Generally it has been through trusts and large land bonds.

Karen mentions looking at impact fees. Eb asks how Falmouth has done it.

Maine Heritage Trust is currently fundraising \$2 million to protect 80 acres off the Granite St. extension. Eb asks if we are looking at an autonomous committee?

Matt volunteers to reach out to Alan Stearns. Karen wants to look at impact fees and thanks Lisa for her work on researching Cumberland's model. All agree that Tim's input would be helpful. Eb feels that we need something quickly. Karyn will invite Alan to the March 3rd. meeting.

PLC feedback discussion: Karyn wants input from PLC on how we provide input and guidance to other town committees and entities. Usually we issue some statement of support and send it over. Eb asks about the sign-up sheets to go to other meetings. Karyn explains to newer members how we used to attend actual meetings. Ron says the goal was often to monitor what was going on and desires to see more structure. Karyn urges committee to keep our eyes on the agendas of other committees. Some examples are Harbor and Waterfront, Bike/Ped., Recycling, Sustainability. Karyn mentions that History center is looking to buy their building- will this affect canoeing? Also RR alliance is looking at dam removals.

Eb motions to adjourn. Ron seconds. Unanimous at 7:43pm (?)

Notes: Ron and Karyn will work on list of committees. Lisa will get agenda items.