

Yarmouth Parks and Lands
Meeting minutes
Dec. 2, 2020

Committee members:

Lisa Small (2022)
Mary Thorp (2022)
Jay Waterman (2021), chair
Ron Dupuis (2021)
Richard Brimberg (2020)
Ebrahim Fazeli (2020)
Karen Massey (2021)

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

Guests: Will Owen, harbormaster Peter Van Allen, waterfront committee

6:02 pm. Call to Order
Acceptance of November minutes. Karen motions; Lisa seconds; passes unanimously.

Updates to Parks and Lands committee:

Karyn states that Matt Cannon has been appointed to the committee and will start in January. Eb expresses interest in remaining for another year. Mary suggests that Eb takes over the 1 year left on Jay's term and that Matt gets appointed to the 3 year term. Karyn will check into this.

Updates:

Erik—*Pratt's Brook*. Has been in touch with a contractor from Bethel re drainage issues esp. Bear Trail. Geoff Shallard has been helping and will groom trails again this winter. Is looking to use winter signage to help separate walkers from skiers.

Riverfront Woods. Have had help from RRCT and Rotary. Boardwalk is functional and will add benches. Hope to add some signage for winter. Also, did some gravel work.

Erik asks that we let him know of any projects we think he should look at.

Jay is pleased about the Westside Trail signage on new connector. Erik says this was done by the developer.

Karyn—talks about the planning board and the discussion about the historic district. Possible new project near DeLorme. Garmin just leases the building, apparently.

Harbor and Waterfront: Will Owen and Peter Van Allen

Committee is asked to look at the proposed language and the Red Lines in the ordinance. Eb asks if this was prompted from multiple incidences. Will says mainly Madeleine Pt. Will stresses that a stronger ordinance gives them the ability to change and restrict usage as needed. Richard appreciates the conciseness. Jay asks when are other activities allowed? Will also explains that he usually talks to the kids first before going to the next step. Ex. On July 4th, he would post a sign limiting certain activities.

Jay feels the second sentence in the proposal means something is NOT allowed. Will says it does read like that- maybe list a maximum number or state what **Is** allowed at each location.

Karyn asks about the other locations. Will says the others are Little John dock, Wharf Rd., Madeleine Pt. and the boat ramp at the Town Landing.

Eb asks about usage restrictions and the oversight needed. Will states that the ordinance would give them some "teeth". There would be public meetings and the police chief and town manager would also weigh in.

Tim says that there are different ways to frame prohibitions. What are the criteria? Need to use discretion if we are prohibiting activities. What guidance do we want to use?

Peter V.A. expresses that they are really concerned mainly about peak times. Will concurs.

Mary urges a gentler tone in the ordinance.

Eb stresses that access is important.
Jay leans towards a more permissive approach, but could post that certain activities are not allowed at peak times.
Richard feels the stricter version may be necessary.
Jay inquires about the possibility of a swim float. Will is not opposed, but town would need money to do it.
Karen agrees with Mary that simpler language is preferred. And if leave the ordinance language as proposed, too many items have to be posted as “allowed”.
Ron agrees that language should be clearer and says that the phrase “at the discretion of the harbormaster” could be used.
Lisa voices support for Karen and Jay’s approach.
Tim suggests another round of edits and Will agrees.
Eb reflects that Will is “between a rock and a hard place” and these types of situations are difficult.
Jay suggests an interim proposal to address the problem.
Will talks about the budget shortfalls.
Mary asks if there is a list of incidents. Says it would be helpful in addressing budget concerns with the council.
Jay asks if a joint letter would help and UL suggests that is a good idea.

Land Acquisition Vs. Land Protection?

Karen thanks Lisa for getting the Cumberland strategy about land acquisitions and protections and Lisa agrees to talk to them for further information.
Jay wonders if discussion with other town planners could be helpful.
Richard asks about Freeport and Lisa says that Freeport’s is VERY specific. Jay states that Portland’s is also different.
Karen says that the new member, Matt, will be a good resource due to his previous experience.

Tree Committee:

Lisa—has met with several interested people and feels there are at least 4 committed members. The group has brainstormed, will review ordinance. She stated that the group is diverse with different passions.
Jay- asks about volunteer tree warden? Lisa feels the group will act temporarily in that capacity.

Miscellaneous:

Karyn talks about bench selection within public lands ie. cedar-looking slat bench vs. black metal.
Asks committee to look at benches around town ex. the black one under the overpass.
Also mentions the Boston Post Rd. development at the end of Lone Pine extension. There is a question of allowing ATV or snowmobile use (also horses?). Generally, motorized are a “no” unless permitted.
Erik asks about deputizing to groom?? Ron inquires if boardwalk is wide enough and the possible degradation. Erik says 41 inches is the width. Mary says she would like to see the R.O.W. again and see how close it is to existing houses. Erik also wants to look at the bike language. The ROW is between lots 4 and 5 with a public way sign. Currently motorized use is prohibited except for maintenance.

Next PLC meeting is Jan. 6th.
Jay signs off the committee amidst positive comments from other members.

Eb motions to adjourn. Lisa seconds. Unanimous at 7:35 pm.

