

Yarmouth Parks and Lands
Meeting minutes
Dec. 1, 2021

Committee members:

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

Mary Thorp (2022)
Ron Dupuis (2024)
Vance Brown (2023)
Ebrahim Fazeli (2021)
Karen Massey (2021)
Matt Cannon (2023)
Lisa Small (2022)

Karen calls the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Updates:

Erik- First boardwalk is in on the newer section of Westside Trail. Rotary grants will help and there is fundraising planned. State grant is still pending.

Frank Knight Forest – framework started for management plan. Scott and Josh helping. Karen notes that a lot of the perimeter trail is not on town property.

Sign Projects: still need to meet. Karyn reached out to the sign people. They are willing to do some kind of donation, but we need to get suggestions. Much discussion about which are “major parks”. Ex. Eb mentions the North Road fields. Lisa will send original list. Debate on granite vs. black posts. What is the longevity? What is the price difference? Karyn will get current price points. Eb suggests possible fundraising. Karen and others feel too much fundraising is going on right now ex. Latchstring, Frank Knight Foundation, etc.

Trail Signs: names needed in Riverfront Woods. Tribal names? Two members of YCare are interested in helping. Erik- on previous survey, there is an early historical site upriver. Westcustago. Eb asks about the fire dept. rep. who was trying to label the trails in Pratt’s. PLC gave their blessing- are waiting on final proposal. Vance mentions that interpretive trail signs are an opportunity to teach and inform. Mary says that more details can be in the on-line guides. Karen is concerned with too many signs littering the trails. Erik: FKF trail signs are not up to Pratt’s brook standards and are confusing. Two trails need directional signs. Mary asks about trying for permanent protections for FKF- reach out to Brookside residents? Vance wants intersections clearly marked. Karen suggests a PLC site visit and tapping into Josh’s expertise. Also says we may need to reroute in some places. Agreement with abutters could get messy; may need ROW purchases or conservation easements.

Public Way request re John Howland/Plimoth Way:

Karyn has received request from homeowner in that area about accessing John Howland open spaces (3 acres behind homes) and has had some neighborhood conversations. Erik- there is a cut-through to FKF by permission of Owens family. Ron- is it marked? Lisa asks about accessibility to the public. Should we mark trail and improve it? Eb says there are a few access points. Mary feels that unless some access to other park lands is involved, that it is not worth our effort. Karen agrees that the neighbors should take the lead in this. Lisa agrees. Karyn will reach back out to homeowners.

Tree Committee:

Tom Estabrook went to most recent meeting. Had been on the town tree survey. Suggestion of town partnering with Estabrooks on a tree purchasing program through the town website. Having them lead on this could be good. Question on tree warden conversations. Lisa asks if any action has been taken by council. How do we nudge them- tree committee needs official recognition.

Karyn- Tim has missed the last two meetings and needs to be caught up. Karen will send a quick email.

Other: Matt Cannon will be moving to Portland and thus has to leave PLC. Members express appreciation for his efforts and those of Karen Massey who will also be stepping down. This leaves two positions that need to be filled ASAP. Eb lets us know that he is willing to continue.

Acceptance of Nov. minutes proceeds since we now have a quorum.
Ron motions, Vance seconds, unanimous.

Mary motions to adjourn. Matt seconds. Unanimous at 7:21 pm.