

Yarmouth Parks and Lands
Meeting minutes
February 1, 2023
Committee members:

Karyn MacNeill, YCS Director
Heather Abbott, Council Liaison
Erik Donohoe, Parks Specialist

Mary Thorp (2025)
Ron Dupuis (2024), chair
Vance Brown (2023)
Brian Caprari (2023)
Lisa Small (2025)
Joe Noel (2024)
Josh Royte (2024)

Ron calls the meeting to order at 6:04pm.

Discussion of January minutes:

Josh has some edits (however, it was discovered that these were from an earlier draft). Vance votes to accept, Brian seconds. Unanimous.

Karyn updates:

Currently working on the operational budget.

On planning board news: the capital improvement plan committee is being selected. 90 Main St. development is up for final approval. Ron had sent this out and final feedback is due very soon.

Erik updates:

Has been working with some tree committee members. They will start working on invasives in Royal River corridor along the shore. In the planning phase. Will be presenting in the next couple of months.

Josh asks when? Erik feels it may start as a small pilot project as soon as they can. Josh says a walk-through with the group would be good before they start. Asks about the budget and the staff on board. Erik and Eli will probably be the staff members from the town. Josh also mentions the native plant nurseries in Maine could be a good resource.

Tree Committee: Lisa

Scott is hard at work and is tending to the backlog in tree work.

Also, the pruning on Center and Cumberland Streets involved both trees in the right of way and on private property.

Subgroups are working on RR park invasives, on an official tree ordinance, and reviewing preferred tree lists.

A tree list has been approved by the committee and has been shared ex. 90 Main St. Are also working to develop a "best practices" for tree protection especially in areas of construction.

Mary asks if Lisa could send the list of preferred trees and the best practices to the committee.

Vance congratulates the committee on being pro-active and asks who is responsible for the town trees? Lisa replies that it is the tree warden. Karyn explains that the tree warden, Scott, reports to YCS and looks for YCS input.

Frank Knight Forest Management Plan: Erik

Says final draft should be shared with town staff before the public.

Mary asks who votes on it? Karyn explains that PLC needs to agree on the draft, then it is sent to staff for their input. And then it goes out for public input. Timing is stepwise and slow. Karyn states that there is work to do before the public meetings. Josh asks what is the most recent plan? Erik says the last update was in the beginning of January.

Josh also suggests that abutters get briefed before an open public meeting ex. the Bluffs residents, the Billings family, etc. It would be smaller run-through before the larger meeting.

Mary does not feel that the FKF management plan is controversial. Vance cautions not to scare abutters with any talk of imminent domain. Joe is willing to help with abutters concerning invasives.

Karyn states she will talk to dept. heads tomorrow and give them until Feb. 15th for input. Then YCS will review and meet with abutters. Lisa and Ron concur with this tentative timetable. Shoot for March 22nd.

Karyn states that April 5th could be the possible public meeting.

Josh suggests that Garland and Billings should be done separately.

Mobile home letter:

Joe feels it is archaic language. Approach affordable housing committee? Joe explains his reasoning behind the letter.

Brian is concerned about opening a can of worms. This area was private land when the statute was put in place. Lisa agrees. Ron semi-agrees.

Mary feels that it needs to be dealt with- maybe a feeler to the town staff?

Josh agrees that it needs to be addressed- feels the town planner should bring to the state?

Joe states that Erin is somewhat aware. Brian says that Erin did not seem concerned when they talked to her.

However, Ron states that ultimately it has landed on us and something needs to be done.

Karyn remarks that Astilbe lane was a previously designated area and is now completely built out. Should be given to the dept. heads to get their feedback. Joe agrees.

Vance suggests that a statement to remove the zone should be in the FKF management plan. Joe says he will prepare his statement and send out to the committee.

New business:

Ron reminds us about comment for 90 Main St.

Feb. walk on the 7th to be led by Ron at Fels-Grove.

Josh will do Sat. the 11th at FKF. Mary, Vance, and Brian hope to make it. Time to be determined. Also Mary will check with Don and Bambi Hall.

Mary calls attention to the Rail/Trail committee news article which narrowly recommended trail for the line through Yarmouth. Vance says it was also on public radio.

Joe motions to adjourn at 7:15. Vance seconds. Unanimous.

