

Yarmouth Parks and Lands

Meeting minutes-

Nov. 6th, 2019

Committee members:

Karen Massey (2021)

Mary Webber (2021)

Lisa Small (2019)

Mary Thorp (2019)

Jay Waterman (2021), chair

Richard Brimberg (2020)

Ebrahim Fazeli (2020)

Karyn MacNeill, YCS Director

Tim Shannon, Council Liaison - absent

Erik Donohoe, Parks Specialist

Call to Order: 6:05 pm

Acceptance of meeting minutes for Sept. 4, 2019 and Oct. 2, 2019.

Discussion of Open Space Plan:

Should impact all boards. Lisa has questions about implementation and Karen Massey brought up the idea of a subcommittee. It is thought that the YCS staff would be ultimately in charge with the P and L committee helping to oversee the plan. Josh Royte and Ben will be submitting it to the Town Council. Mary T. suggested devoting the Jan. meeting to brainstorming priorities. Jay suggested preparing out work plan in tandem with the Open Space Plan. The operating budget should be ready in Dec. Lisa will prepare a sentence about P and L role in the Open Space Plan and send it to Erik and Tim Shannon.

This led to a discussion about the role of the PLC. Note: the mission statement is at the top of each agenda. Mary W. Expressed some unease about intruding in Planning Board items and also wanted more updates. Suggested 3 min. at each meeting from Karyn to give us brief updates. Richard wanted us to work on what is most needed. Eb cautioned about not getting bogged down. Karyn will email out the stewardship plan. Jay reminded us that we still have management plans to do.

Karyn shared a celebration. The walking bridge across the Royal River near the history center is done.

Erik then reported as the Parks Specialist. He discussed Riverfront Woods and the volunteer contribution including the RR trail crew.

Related that Tim stressed the land acquisition funding to the Town Council.

Westside Trail work continues with various groups helping. Signs are ordered and should be arriving. Gravel is needed for RR crossing (along with permitting)

Erik lost a good deal of time with the aftermath of the two windstorms.

Steve Johnson and Barney Baker, who manage the bridges, looked at Pratt's bridge on the Kangaroo Trail. There are erosion issues.

Dog Park update- Mary Webber talked about the public meeting on Friday the 15th at 8am. Of the two "finalist" sites, Sligo has been deemed too wet. The more desirable site is at Pratt's Brook near the disc golf course due to the topography, the trees, etc. Discussion of type of fencing- Mary invited us to see her Critter Fence to compare to the traditional chain link. The site would be 1 to 1.5 acres. The group is hoping to present it to the Town Council. Then more funding can be explored.

Discussion about Westside Trail night biking. Several complaints about lights at night. Since it now gets dark at 5pm, the committee was loath to try to restrict riders and walkers from using the trail after dark. Jay talked about educating bikers about riding with beams down. He will reach out to the Maine Bicycle Coalition for suggestions. Mary T. suggested signage saying "if you can read this sign, your light is too high", or something to that effect.

Mary W. motioned to adjourn at 7:40pm. Karen seconded. Unanimous.