

Yarmouth Parks and Lands
Meeting minutes
Sept. 2, 2020

Committee members:

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

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

Guest: Susan Prescott

Call to Order 6:02 pm on Go To Meeting

Acceptance of August minutes with 1 change (Karyn, not Karen at last comment). Karen motion; Lisa- second; unanimous

Updates:

Erik: reports that people are using the Fieldstone drive and McKearney paths. Volunteer support has been great. Should be wrapped up within a month.

Riverfront Woods. Primitive trails are started. Dugas Const. doing RR crossing. Hoping for carriage trail next year. Will start on boardwalk with the Rotary Club next month.

Next project is Pratt's Brooks bridges. Need to be sturdy for equipment.

Karen inquires about Army Corps permits.

Jay reminds PLC about sending a thank-you to the Rotary.

Tim asks for the exact location of the Rotary project.

Karyn asks Erik to send boardwalk plans out to the PLC members.

Karyn: Open Space update:

Wants someone to do tree inventory and check new trees and check tree health status. GIS skills would be desirable AND could possible update our on-line trail maps (link GIS portal to guide)

Mary asks which trees are in the inventory.

Lisa wonders who is responsible for the trees ie. Hillside plantings Mary inquires if these are still under warranty and how were these particular trees selected. (Karyn- still under contract)

Karyn is currently sharing these duties with public works.

She discusses hiring Emma Palmer. (related to Frank Knight Foundation; managing hazardous trees and also doing plantings.

Lisa asks if we are looking for an arborist to review new plans. Jay mentioned that there previously had been one on the public works crew. There is thought of sharing an arborist with a neighboring town.

Committee talks about trying to get a new tree warden to replace Andrew Gabrielson. Susan Prescott asks about the budget and is told that PLC budget has been slashed. Karyn says that hiring anyone for this is an issue. Lisa talks about getting interest from some Frank Knight members AND possibly having a tree committee rebirth. Susan mentions she had been a member.

Waterfront Access discussion:

Jay talks about the Madeleine Pt. issue and Nat's suggestion to have two separate floats- swim and boat. Karyn will be having conversations with Will Owen, the harbormaster, this fall.

Jay talks about the erosion by the history center and wants to ensure safe access.

Karyn tells us that Gil Broberg's wife would like to pursue a safe handicap accessible fishing area.

Jay would like to schedule a joint meeting and also have Alan for Royal River Trust chime in. Need to look at ROWs, etc. Karyn mentions looking at a float access from Sligo and ferry planking across to Riverfront Woods.

Land Acquisition Strategy:

Basically there is no money. Jay expresses that we need to look at creative ways. Asks which are the ROWs and if there are maps. Erick will send out the ROW information and map that Sharon McCold (spl?) had researched.

Lisa talks of the importance of signage and having maps and markers. Mary volunteers to help her.

Karyn has some signs and suggests getting sturdy stickers for existing signs. Jay likes the idea of using our new logo with some identification.

Karyn announces that Bike/Ped is now an official town committee.

Wendy Barmore and Joan (?) Dollarite are looking for other fundraising to continue plans.

Karen suggest Lisa and Mary should contact Bike/Ped.

Lisa urges us to think in terms of land protection strategy.

Karyn says the main thrust from the town currently is maintaining what we have as opposed to obtaining more. She will contact Alan.

Tim says it is important in the current budget crisis to **prioritize** any acquisitions that we might be interested in and projects we desire to move forward on.

Reminder: Joint PLC/ Planning Board meeting the end of the month Sept. 30th at 6:30pm.

CIP update:

Karyn will be submitting the CIP tomorrow. There are 689 acres under PLC.

Miscellaneous:

We all briefly introduce ourselves to our new member, Ron. He states that he loves the group's mission and has lived in Yarmouth for 1 and ½ years. Works at IDEX and is a Maine Guide and has been involved in waterfront projects previously.

Jay suggests we have slides for the planning board and asks us to let him and Karyn know what topics we would like to discuss with them.

Karen motions to adjourn. Lisa seconds. Unanimous vote at 7:28 pm.