

Yarmouth Parks and Lands
Meeting minutes
March 2, 2022

Committee members:

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

Mary Thorp (2022)
Ron Dupuis (2024), chair
Vance Brown (2023)
Vacant position (2023)
Lisa Small (2022)
Joe Noel (2024)
Josh Royte (2024)

Ron calls the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
Acceptance of Feb. minutes- Lisa motions, Ron seconds, unanimous.

Erik updates:

Eli and Erik have done a lot of tree work (ex. leaners).
Worked on invasive surveys- hopefully will get all properties done soon. I.e. possible sub-committee? Josh volunteers for it when that happens.
Riverfront Woods received a Maine State Parks and Recreation Award.

Rail Road Square discussion:

Mary and Josh had hiked the area and had some comments. Much of the area is fill material.
Retention ponds could be tricky.
Josh- a stream borders the property draining into a natural alder swamp. The culvert is partially filled and there is a big concern about slope erosion. The vegetation at the site level and on the bank mainly consists of invasive species. There also are some pipes which could mean there are monitoring wells.
Mary- the area for the scenic walking path is primarily all knotweed and invasive vegetation.
Lisa is concerned with the balance of green space with a project of this size. Also wants to know if the "natural area" was misrepresented.
Mary is very concerned about the fill area stability with excavation and blasting.
Joe mentions the adequacy of pipes and the drainage into the wetlands.
Josh talks about the steepness of the current slope. (maxed out?).
Mary also brings up the possible walker's path across the tracks. There is a ravine that would have to have a connector built across to make it feasible.
Vance asks about the tentative rail trail. It is a possible draw for residential ownership in this area.

Karyn mentions the developer's contribution to the rail trail. The bike-ped committee is taking the lead on this. Also mentions that the developer is the same one as Village Run and they were very good dealing with public land issues.

Joe and Josh question what was in the fill- oil, gas?

Vance asks about the "public " spaces noted on the submission. Is the road public? Any reserved parking spaces for public access? Wants adequate public parking.

Lisa says that there is little plant-able area. What trees would thrive there? What might survive, even?

Joe (looking at maps) says the area is shown as old industrial and commercial.

Lisa is concerned that this is not feasible for plantings.

Josh says they need to figure drip lines and root zones. Both Josh and Lisa stress the need for good tree wells for tree survival AND to mitigate the noise for tenants and neighbors.

Mary will send out notes taken from Josh/Mary excursion.

Ron will get our comments together and email Wendy.

Karyn updates:

NYA has submitted reflection on the town website. Seemingly not concerned about the run-off. Have agreed to clearing trash and rubbish.

Tree Committee:

Lisa announces it is an official town committee and Nat and Karyn were very helpful. Stresses the No. 1 concern is the Emerald Ash Borer and the need for an assessment and a strategy. State reaction is positive. Meeting weekly.

Vance questions how this works. A town liaison to the committee and a staff person will be assigned.

Work Plan 2022: (group views suggested plan)

Ron suggests changing "forestry" to "invasives".

Ron asks about the sign standards. Lisa explains that we are in a holding pattern due to the branding effort of the town.

Karyn is on the branding committee. And says we can keep our logo. Lisa agrees that we should have some say in PLC signage. Mary mentions the RR Conservation sign looks good for smaller areas. Josh stresses the need for metal collars if wood posts are used.

Tim reiterates that impact fees are complex and there are many legal parameters concerning how they are assessed and used.

Mary and Lisa suggest moving the invasive bullet up to #4.

Tim and Karyn want to keep impact fees as a separate category.

Mary asks about a new member to fill Eb's term. Karyn says the council is working on it.

Move to adjourn made by Ron. Mary seconds. Unanimous at 7:35pm.