

Yarmouth Parks and Lands

Meeting minutes-

June 3, 2020

Committee members:

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

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

Guests:

Carla Dupuis
Andrew Majewski
Rebecca Robich
Michael Robich

Zoom Call to Order: 6:05 pm Jay chairing meeting

Acceptance of May minutes: Karen motioned, Mary T. second, approved

Signage prep re Larrabee's Landing

Karyn says map and signage is done. Checked with PD about parking- cannot be limited unless limited for all. If someone is parked on private property the police can be called. Cannot change hours of use.

Karen thought that if the hours are changed for one parcel, it would need to be across the board. Ordinance change from citizens? Possible fee for that change.

Michael R. is concerned about the hours and unsafe drug use and alcohol. People are staying late and are down on the rocks.

Rebecca R.-looking for hours ordinance like Pratt's and RR with set hours.

Karyn asks if they are looking to set hours at all the parks?

Rebecca says other towns set hours. Thinks that Cumberland does.

Karyn says she will check with other towns.

Mary W. felt there should be some consistency between all the parks. Perhaps put it on the work plan?

Eb doesn't feel the need for the same hours at all parks. Thought sign could address noise, safe use, and a note that "police take notice"

Karyn explains the history of set hours at Pratt's and RR

Andrew-needs to be a map and boundaries

Mary T. notes that the property is very narrow. Asks if there has been much trouble so far this year? Have there been police calls?

Michael says that there has been high use, mostly fishing so far. Has not seen a lot of nighttime use. Says that the jetty is where most hang out.

Andrew states he found a fire pit with live embers

Erik clarifies that people can fish between low and mean tides. Is unclear who owns the jetty.

Karen asks about signage including "no fires"

Mary T. asks about clarification in the deed about the jetty and feels the sign should stress "no fires"

Karyn wants the signage up quickly.

Jay feels other rules can be referenced on the sign.

Tim asks where is the edge and learns that it is to the mean high tide.

Michael thanks the committee on behalf of the neighbors and comments that the path down to the water seems pretty clear

Jay promises to look at the question of park hours, but felt it does not need to go on the work plan.

Project Updates:

Erik will be going to the planning board. Riverfront Woods needs a prehistoric archeological survey. Has been also working on Village Run and has been incredibly busy.

Karyn is looking for stewards for different parks. She is setting up meetings with neighbors on the Fieldstone Path.

There is an active fox den in Village Run area and still some bike use. However, is not terribly concerned at this point about the "trade".

Work Plan Discussion:

Parks and playgrounds now have an incredibly limited budget due to Covid concerns.

UL remarks that it was a "bloodbath". There are some hardline budgeters on the committee.

Karyn- CIP cut by 50%. Used for long-term planning.

Erik remarks that money is needed at Fels and especially at Pratt's, due to trail safety concerns.

Karyn needs someone familiar with Adobe Illustrator to update guides.

Eb is hopeful that there will be some government bail-out money for towns.

Karyn is looking at grants and other funding sources, but there is usually at least a 2 year turn-around. Feels the loss of a staff position.

Jay questions where does the money from the go to? Answer: tax cuts

Dog Park:

Mary Webber states that because of Susan Hamel's concerns about her father's intention for Pratt's, the dog park there will not work. The committee leads (Mary W., Geoff, and Tom) are "pawing" for the summer and will start anew in November.

NOTE: please send final copy of Riverfront Woods to committee

Sign updates: none

Logo Update:

Lisa says that the logo contest ended June 1st and there were 10 submissions. The logo will be chosen and then design standards picked that work with the logo. There will be a Zoom meeting with the 2 judges and Lisa and Mary W. Unfortunately, Celebration YCS was cancelled so could not present there.

Work Plan discussion continues:

Karyn hopes to do a drive-in band performance of some sort on July 8th for some celebration.

Jay wants to look at old and new strategies for land acquisition. Wants criteria to judge new parcels while continuing to maintain the current properties.

Lisa- acquisition strategy should align with Open Space Plan.

Eb- we should do document as if there were no budget cuts.

Forestry management plan: Jay asks if there is any money for this? What is the next step?

Karyn will write a request for services by the end of the year so she can get accurate quotes. Will reach out to Falmouth and Topsham.

Ready for next Comp Plan?

Karyn has not heard anything.

Tim says that Nat floated the idea. Tim will check on this. 10 year? 12 year?

Lisa believes it is a 10 year plan, but there is a grace period

Miscellaneous:

Jay reminds all to keep eyes and ears open for planning board request for comments. Will try to get sign-up sheets updated.

Adjournment: Mary W. motioned/Karen seconded Unanimous.