

Yarmouth Parks and Lands
Meeting minutes
Jan. 4, 2023

Committee members:

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

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

Ron calls the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

Dec. minutes accepted. Vance motions, Brian seconds, unanimous.

Erik Updates:

Between major projects at the moment. A lot of clearing of brush and downed trees. YCARE is working on naming trails in Riverfront Woods to encourage equity and recognize indigenous peoples. A Passamaquoddy native speaker is on their committee.

Josh mentions that pre-Covid, the local group with Art Bell and Bill Gregory has been in contact with an Abenaki woman. States Karen Massey is also on with that group. Ron states that YCare has a website.

Mary interjects that several town residents have said what a good job Erik and Eli have done clearing storm damage.

Vance asks about the buckthorn in FKF. Scott, the tree warden, is aware.

Erik says that currently they have cut the buckthorn back and will apply herbicide when money is in the budget.

Tree Committee: Lisa

States that there are no new updates. They continue to look at tree protection standards and plan on public outreach concerning ordinances.

Josh asks about the tree tags. It is getting to the point where they can cause damage to the trees. Can they be removed? Lisa states that Karyn wants some identifying tag. Mary asks if she can remove the ones on her property since the trees are not in the public right-of-way. Lisa responds that Karyn should be the one to ask.

Ron mentions heavy pruning on the corner of Center St. and Cumberland. Lisa will check on this.

FKF Management plan:

Several members had given input.

Lisa commends Josh on the extra info he included. Asks about following through on protections. Is there a next step?

Josh replies that the town does use the management plans. Mary adds that public comment comes first. Josh says that after that, it goes to the town council for approval.

Joe states that this echoes a lot of what is going on in southern Maine. Especially with large tracts.

Josh suggests Erik put out an executive summary and asks what Erik needs from us. Erik says he will get out a clean copy and work on the final draft. Then it can go to public comment in March and then go to council for approval in April or May.

Mary asks about the overlay. Brian and Lisa feel it needs to be dealt with. Joe is willing to research it. Mary asks about reaching out to Tim or Karen Massey. (Mary will reach out to Karen).

Vance asks about a connector across the railroad to Pratt's. Is it possible? Josh explains that where the bedrock is, there could be negotiations with Pan Am, but it would be expensive.

Erik will get our "hopes" into the plan.

Overlay zone discussion. Joe looks up the statute. And checks that the zone was set up in 1983. Mary states that the date was well before the town owned the land and Josh concurs. Erik states he has not put anything in the FKF management plan about the overlay. Joe says that a lot of government stuff is still on paper and not on line. He will continue to research this.

Work Plan: Erik.

Ron shares his screen. Josh says site plan reviews should be mentioned. Lisa says item 3 needs to be updated to look at implementation. It is related to the budget.

Vance looks at item 6- which property is next? Is there a refresh cycle? Lisa asks what property should be next? Erik- Sweetser? And mentions that the open space plan suggests 10-year review for management plans.

Erik and Josh say that a management plan could be general for the small parcels. We need to concentrate on the bigger parcels and capture them first.

Lisa suggests that 1 and 3 in the long term plan should be moved to 4 and 5.

Josh suggests putting a note in about incorporation into the Comp Plan.

Ron asks what is the Corridor Plan? Erik explains that it is a long term visioning plan that DeWan architects worked on. Lisa supports the evaluation of the river and its estuaries. Brian is interested in being part of the process to look at dam removal.

Ron will put it in for discussion.

Other:

Vance asks about the rail/trail. Mary went to the 3+ hour public review and expresses her concern that anything will get done. States that a final recommendation from the committee should be coming out this month.

Ron will get a "thank-you" out to the Pratts bench donor from the committee and Mary will proof it.

Suggestions for next PLC walk: Fels Grove? Sweetser? Back to Riverfront?

Mary asks about the working waterfront group. Lisa states that Rebecca Rehnquist is involved in the land purchase.

Vance motions for adjournment and Lisa seconds. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.