

## QUOTES FROM LETTERS OF SUPPORT

*"It is important to improve the current green space, located on a busy corner of Yarmouth, while creating pedestrian friendly walkways and a quiet location for relaxation and meditation for all ages."*

—Pam Adams, 2015 Latchstring Award Winner

*"Having recently taken a tour of the Park and seen first hand the plans that have been developed...offers a safer and more efficient use of a small space while retaining a majority of available parking spaces. This improved space will be accessible to people of all ages and abilities, recognized as a true park - a place worthy of acknowledging our Latchstring Award winners. I am excited by the work that has gone into this project, and know this will be a wonderful upgrade to the top of Main Street."*

—Art Bell, 2017 Latchstring Award Winner , Maine State Representative, House District #47

*"It is difficult to see how a more convincing case could be made for the adoption of the Latchstring Park Improvements Plan than the language of the Yarmouth Open Space Plan. It will benefit abutters...residents of all ages and abilities...the school children making their way to Handy's from school, those such as myself who will seek it out as a destination, as a resting spot and place of contemplation at the heart of the Upper Village, and as a starting point for quiet walks within the Village, for the neighboring businesses...for the residents of Coastal Manor who will have an enhanced opportunity to enjoy fresh air and the physical and psychic benefits of green space, and for the Town as a whole, marking as it does the heart of the Upper Village, an anchor for our Main Street improvements, and a welcoming entry to our Town for those coming from inland...on behalf of all past, present and future Latchstring Award recipients, we will take pride in this park with its renewed life."*

—Edward J. Ashley, 2018 Latchstring Award Winner

*"The existing grassed area is small. One of the significant benefits of the new design is that it significantly increases the green space. Equally important it moves the usable space away from Main Street. Even on a winters day with no leaves on the trees there is a noticeable drop in noise and intrusion of the traffic as you move back into the lot. A strategic combination of grading, shrubbery, and use of monolithic items such as granite blocks (which I understand has been discussed) could dramatically change the ambience of this space. I will admit that I have never been too impressed with Latchstring Park. After spending some time there this week and looking at the concept plan I have realized that it could evolve into a small oasis at a prime location."*

—Geoff Shallard, 2003 Latchstring Award Winner

*"The Town, the Village Improvement Society, residents, business owners and developers have all played a part over the years in making many substantial enhancements to the green spaces and structures along Maine Street...Moving forward with these landscape improvements for Latchstring Park would certainly be in keeping with all the past efforts made while reclaiming this site as an attractive green space for the western end of Main Street. The overall goal is to provide attractive, safe, pedestrian friendly places for residents, those who work in town and visitors to spend their time. Josh has designed a very attractive landscape plan for this site which includes a significant amount of green space, seating, plantings, trees, and an adequate amount of parking, and a more fitting site to honor the Latchstring Award recipients. Josh's design truly reads as a Park plan that represents the character and feel of the Village."*

—Eileen Butler, 29 Baker Street

# L A T C H S T R I N G P A R K

## YARMOUTH, MAINE

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*"We support the proposed project at Latchstring Park. Improving the aesthetics at this corner and carving out some additional green space on this side of town are big wins."*

—Caitlin, Keith & the O & E Team, Business owner Owl & Elm, Main Street

*"I'd like to pass on my full support for the proposed Latchstring Park restoration project. I think that the team has done a very thoughtful job of balancing interests and values in their proposed plan."*

—Dan Ostrye, 2013 Latchstring Award Winner, Chair Bike Ped Committee, Complete Streets Advisory Council

*"A reimagining of this space is long overdue...Reducing the amount of pavement in this park should make the space more inviting for pedestrians and kids on the way home from school. The redesign looks like a much more efficient use of space and will certainly make this corner more inviting."*

—Heather Veitch, Main Street Business Owner, Gingham

*"I appreciate that the plan takes a fairly awkward open space with seating on a rise exposed to traffic on all sides and turns it into a more beautiful natural sheltered place where people can gather, eat a meal, visit with one another, or have a peaceful break. I think this is especially important in light of the nursing home residents, visitors and staff nearby so they can have some more functional relaxing green space with seating and semi-private, distinct areas to take a break in, to sit beneath some shade trees and have those quiet places for conversations. The close proximity to several eating establishments, bookstore, and 317 music lessons and our newfound appreciation for places to eat and gather outside make this location particularly exciting for an upgrade....investments in our common green spaces brings people together in ways that support our community and storm water runoff, and sometimes important sighting in nature that enrich all our lives."*

—Josh Royte, 2008 Latchstring Award Winner, first Open Space Guide author, former Parks and Lands Committee Chair, former Conservation Committee Chair, and Open Space Planning Team Chair

*"Latchstring Park...is currently very tired and underutilized because it is just not inviting. It can be so much more; this is an opportunity to create an enhanced space to the upper village. The Yarmouth citizens coupled with many professionals have collaborated on doing just that. Plans were made and amended multiple times as they sought feedback from the community, both citizens and business owners. A huge amount of thought and revisions have gone into the visual appeal, usability, and safety of this space. The latest plan I saw is quite wonderful.... Green space is a win win!"*

—Diana Hibbard, long time resident Baker Street

# L A T C H S T R I N G P A R K

YARMOUTH, MAINE

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## QUOTES FROM TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC COMMENT / February 4, 2021

*"Latchstring Park...is a very important park for the town...it is one of the truly first things you would look at when you enter the village district."*

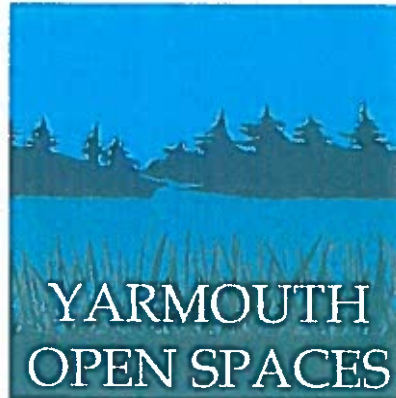
Also suggested adding in-ground stand for a holiday tree and supports the use of volunteers for maintenance.  
—Deb Hopkins, 2000 Latchstring Award Winner

*"Beautiful plan, flexible, durable, solves a lot of issues, works, thinks it is a great plan, looking forward to it."*  
—Sarah Witte, Neighbor and local Landscape Architect

*"Super supportive...excited...huge improvement of a degraded park/parking lot."*  
*Also preferred idea of dead end street, but likes street being marked for safety.*  
—Patrick Jackson, Abutter

*"Wonderful project...great plan." Park renovation plan is "attractive and appropriate, much better use of space, planned parking is adequate." Quoted the town parking study, saying there are "950 spaces on Main Street and 500 are available at any time" as evidence that there is sufficient parking in Yarmouth; went on to note that parking is available but often not "right in front" of where people are going, offered to help.*  
—Matt Teare, Neighbor and Main Street Property Owner

*"Proponent of this plan...currently the park is not welcoming to visitors or Latchstring Award winners...Great job..Beautiful..Gateway Into Town...On balance a really nice plan."*  
—Tamson Bickford Hamrock, Main Street Property Owner, former Town Councilor, daughter of Erv Bickford (2012 Latchstring Award Winner and former Town Councilor)



January 8, 2021

Town of Yarmouth  
c/o Town Manager, Town Council  
200 Main Street  
Yarmouth, ME 04096

RE: Latchstring Park Proposal

Yarmouth's Parks and Lands Committee (PLC) met on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 and a discussion on the Latchstring Park proposed renovations was presented by the Latchstring Park Task Force representatives Susan Prescott, Joshua Tompkins, Jackie Schumacher, and Linda Grant.

Following the comprehensive presentation, a statement was made by the PLC.

*The Parks and Lands Committee resolves, unanimously, that the proposed Latchstring Park rehabilitation and reconfiguration will be a major asset to the Town of Yarmouth and is in accord with the provisions of the 2019 Open Space Plan. We support this project and hope the funds can be raised and/or appropriated to realize this project.*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karyn A. MacNeill".

Karyn A. MacNeill, CPRP  
Yarmouth Community Services Director

# L A T C H S T R I N G P A R K

YARMOUTH, MAINE

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February 17, 2021

Nat Tupper, Town Manager  
Yarmouth Town Council  
200 Main Street  
Yarmouth, ME 04096

RE: Latchstring Park Proposal

Dear Nat and Council Members,

Yarmouth's Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee met on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> and discussed the proposed renovations to Latchstring Park following a presentation from Latchstring Park Task Force representatives Susan Prescott and Joshua Tompkins.

Following that presentation the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee voted to support the overall renovation plan that was presented for the following reasons:

- The renovation results in a 36% increase in the useable area of the park, a 50% reduction in impervious surface and shifts much of that useable space to the rear of the park, away from the noise and traffic along Main Street.
- The renovation provides a permanent solution to the cut through traffic in the parking lot that had been a chronic problem until the Town installed temporary traffic barriers along Patty Lane. We would recommend that the sidewalk in front of the parking spaces be connected to Main Street.
- The renovation will create an inviting space at the beginning of the Main Street commercial district that will complement the other inviting open spaces along Main Street, including the Village Green, Town Hall, Merrill Memorial Library, NYA Greens. This creates an inviting environment and convenient resting spaces for folks all along our commercial district.
- The sidewalk connection through the park will create a safe and inviting route for users who access the Village from Hillside, Church and Baker Streets. We do recommend the addition of advisory lane markings along Patty Lane to continue the bicycle and pedestrian connection beyond the park limits.
- The renovation includes a dedicated handicap parking space and accessible pathways. We do encourage inclusion of accessible tables within the park to further enhance the accessible nature of the space. This is of particular importance given the proximity of the park to the Coastal Manor facility.

In short, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee supports the renovation of Latchstring Park and looks forward to collaborating with the Task Force as the design evolves and funds are raised. We recognize that it may take time to bring this project to fruition, but encourage the Council to support the plan as it will encourage community support and motivate volunteers to work towards making this dream a reality.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel P. Ostrye – Chairman  
Yarmouth Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee.

# L A T C H S T R I N G P A R K

YARMOUTH, MAINE

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*Yarmouth Village Improvement Society*  
P. O. Box 282  
Yarmouth, Maine 04096

May 5, 2021

Latchstring Task Force  
Yarmouth, ME 04096

Dear Task Force Members:

The Yarmouth Village Improvement Society supports with enthusiasm the proposed design and concept for a new Latchstring Park to anchor Yarmouth's Main Street at the corner of Main Street, West Main Street and West Elm Street. Based on our excitement for the benefits that the improvement will bring to the community, the Society pledges \$100,000 to support the project.

The Society, referred to locally as the VIS, was organized in 1911..."to protect and improve the natural advantages and the pleasing symmetry of Yarmouth, to excite and foster an interest and love of said town and to engage in any work that will aim to accomplish this end". The initial project for the group was the development of Yarmouth's first public park, the Village Green in front of the Grand Trunk Depot in the central part of Main Street. The project enhanced the community and most of all provided a town green space for citizens to gather and enjoy. Since those early years, the VIS has continued to initiate, collaborate, provide financial means and hands on assistance to ensure that Yarmouth has public areas that bring pride and enjoyment to residents and visitors alike.

Latchstring Park has been in the VIS vision for several years as a site that could be improved for the welfare of the community. When the Latchstring Task Force was created by the Town Council, a VIS member was included on the committee. The proposed new design will not only improve the aesthetics of the site, but has taken into consideration necessary safety issues. The impact on park users includes an increase in green space and shifts the usable space away from the noise and traffic of this busy corner.

This project, when completed, will not only be an enhancement for today but also into the future for all to enjoy. The VIS is proud to be a part of making this a reality for Yarmouth.

Sincerely,

The Board of Trustees of the Yarmouth Village Improvement Society.



February 9, 2022

Members of the Latchstring Park Task Force,

As advisors for sustainable economic growth in Yarmouth, the Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB) is keenly aware of the value of Yarmouth's public green spaces, especially in our Village. Yarmouth's unique character and sense of place is what sets it apart from other Maine communities. The vibrancy of our Main Street commercial core, paired with abundant public greenspaces is truly one of Yarmouth's most marketable assets.

When the Board was first established in 2015, EDAB's initial focus was creating an economic development market analysis that reflected regional trends, identified potential growth sectors, and most importantly, surveyed residents to learn what was important to them. It was clear that our regional advantages (traditional New England downtown, diverse network of public greenspaces and trails, nationally recognized school district, and community sustainability) matched the survey responses of our residents. Using this document, EDAB has developed programming and financed capital projects that have enhanced Yarmouth's overall livability and enabled significant economic growth.

Within the last year, funds committed through the Town's tax increment financing (TIF) development fund were instrumental in constructing the first phase of the Main Street streetscape improvement project. As an important node in Yarmouth's village core, the improvements outlined for Latchstring Park help to support the design and amenities outlined in the town's Main Street master plan.

As a Board, we congratulate you on your ongoing successes and fully support this project moving forward. We hope to contribute funds in FY23 to make this project a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deb".

Deb Wathen-Finn  
Chair, Economic Development Advisory Board