

Yarmouth Parks and Lands
Meeting minutes-
Dec. 4, 2019

Committee members:

Karen Massey (2021)
Mary Webber (2021)
Lisa Small (2022)

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

Mary Thorp (2022)
Jay Waterman (2021), chair
Richard Brimberg (2020)
Ebrahim Fazeli (2020)

Call to Order: 6:03 pm

Acceptance of meeting minutes for November.

Brief update (Karyn):

Open Space plan adopted. Dog park will be going before Council in Dec. and will be voted on in Jan.

(Eric):

Riverfront Woods is proceeding. Gravel next week and permit to cross the tracks this winter. DOT will have to approve the wooden board crossing over tracks. Info board is up. Eric and Gina Maresca (intern) laid out a rough flag route. CMP permissions will be needed also for further work. 4 total vernal pools are present.

Talk of snow-shoe walk for January.

Meeting for January postponed to the 8th.

Discussion on resuscitating the signage group. Royal River signs are the standard. Karyn suggested walking Main St. to see signs and also to look at other signs ie. Frank Knight, Village Green and the Royal River Park.

Eb stressed consistency in signage.

Lisa and Mary W. agreed to be on the sign committee.

Budget and CIP:

Karyn talked about the responsibility of the school dept. vs. that of community services.

Talked about vehicle maintenance (a large part of community services budget). She reviewed some of the line items that affect P and L and stressed that re-allocations require council approval.

Committee looked at the budget. Eb asked about some of the specific allocations. Jay asked about capital needs assessments. Karyn replied that she uses the general standards for our region.

Jay advocated for the committee to spend our time and energy on getting the budget increased and to have an active presence on the town council. Lisa stated that we need to have Tim Shannon more engaged. Jay also said we need to explain what is under-funded. Richard concurred saying we need to show them what areas we are falling behind in AND how this continues to snowball.

Lisa brought up the concern about invasives and how the problem is getting worse. Mary T. told of how perceptions have changed over time and more awareness is needed. Mary W. gave Spear Farm as an example of a property over-run with invasives.

Mary W. brought up the idea of the P and L guide being free on-line and \$3 to print?

Jay talked of telling the story of needs vs. the actual budget.

Mary W. stressed the importance of knowing how council views the committee and whether they feel the budget is "soft". Reiterated the need for an active liaison who participates on council AND at our meetings.

Jay said that since we are ½ way through the fiscal year, should a "spent to date" column be added?

It was noted that land acquisition is a separate line item.

CIP written memos go to Nat Tupper and the council.

Finally, Jay said he would reach out to Tim and try to assess his ability to participate.

Work Plan discussion:

Many issues to be discussed for the January agenda. Jay tasked the committee members to be thinking about ideas for the work plan.

A few issues already decided upon were signage, advocacy, and the Riverfront Woods Management Plan.

It was noted that the planning board will have some new members and a new chair.

Bark Park: (Mary Webber)

The plan will go to council in Dec. with a vote in Jan. Mary W. stressed that it is impossible to fundraise unless the council endorses the plan. The selected site will be officially voted on in Jan.

It was decided that discussion of Ed Ashley's email would be tabled until Jan. in the interest of time.

Mary W. motioned for adjournment, Karen seconded. Unanimous at 8:00 pm.