

Yarmouth Parks and Lands

Meeting minutes

June 2, 2021

Committee members:

Lisa Small (2022)
Mary Thorp (2022)
Ron Dupuis (2021)
Vacant (2023)
Ebrahim Fazeli (2021)
Karen Massey (2021)-chair
Matt Cannon (2023)

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

guests: Abigail McMann
Josh Royte

Karen Massey calls the meeting to order at 6:04pm.
Acceptance of May 5, 2021 minutes. Ron motions, Lisa seconds, unanimous.

Neighbor request re Camp Soci discussion:

Karyn presents the neighbor's proposal. Karen explains that several members have viewed the site. All look at current maps and new proposed property lines. Eb states that there is fault on both sides concerning the initial sale to the current owner and the Soci property line running through the current house. Committee worries about precedence being set, however, concerning the current owners expansion into more of Soci property. Tim and Erik ask which zone the property is in.

Lisa asks about easement and is opposed to further intrusion into town property so that neighbor's property is conforming.

Karyn mentions the possibility of a land swap to obtain the front piece by the shore. Also mentions that the berm where the current owners have erected a fence was part of a walking loop used by townspeople before the fence was built. The fence was incorrectly built on town land.

Tim asks her to restate: the fence was erected on town property AND impedes public access? And the current proposal is for a house expansion that will cede town land and permanently close the pathway?

Karyn responds in the positive.

Matt is concerned about encroachment issues- when was the sunroom put on? What is the original footprint? How big is the piece desired? (@ .15 acres)

Tim asks about the deed. Was deeded to the town in 1991 from CMP. The original house was built in 1964. It is an LDR zone. Tim also mentions the adverse possession statute- believe it is 20+ years.

Matt volunteers to look at historical aerial photos.

Fire/rescue markers for public lands:

Abigail McMann presents. Has been working to design markers to be placed in the parks with emergency contact information and general location. Karyn talks of the central map in the brochure. Erik has sent the GIS link. Idea is that they would be 5" by 3.5".

Karen is concerned about sheer numbers of signs. Mary asks how many are they thinking of. No data yet. Karen asks if any other towns are doing this. Ron asks if they are thinking just at junctions. Eb likes the idea. Karen suggests a pilot program in one or two parks.

Abigail stresses that they are open to suggestions. The sign numbers would designate which park. Furthermore, more detailed location mapping would help update the "run cards".

Lisa asks about how they would be mounted. Eb wants to showcase our logo. Mary suggests the logo at entrances and smaller signs within the parks. Ron would be in favor of a reflective back. Matt thinks it is a commendable idea, but would like the signs as small as possible.

Committee and Staff Updates:

Sign committee: Lisa discusses the various pictures that were sent out of different types of signs. Wants a primary sign with our logo. Karyn talks of the need for signs at Community Garden, Frank Knight Forest, and the Royal River Park. Lisa suggests something simple with supplemental pieces below. Karyn wants something that sits taller so that snow plowing is not an issue.

Lisa wants to see the logo against different backgrounds and use of the existing font. Matt- brown or cedar? Josh mentions the Pratt's Brook Sign.

Karyn has ordered 25 stickers and 25 metal boundary markers. Should be arriving mid to late June.

Erik: continues to play around with the guide. Hoping to get to FKF boardwalks soon. New steward for properties has an arborist license. Will work on invasives and wetland delineations. Will work with volunteer groups.

Mary will talk to Chuck about BS community service. Karyn will talk to YHS and NYA.

Frank Knight Forest Management Plan:

Erik is working on a survey to stakeholders as a first step, ex. How is the area currently being used? What do users want to see happen? Etc. This can change data. Eb- how do you reach people? Erik responds that they send out letters to targeted abutters. Try to get a team and QR codes and a Facebook survey. Also can use cameras at different entrances.

Karen mentions that hunters also need to be included. Also, expresses a desire to plant milkweed in some of the field area.

Josh Royte volunteers to help. Asks about other surveys that have been done like those of RR?

Ron volunteers to help Josh.

Work Plan:

Would like to include current protections. Eb stresses land acquisition. Karyn says that impact fee proposals will be presented to the council soon.

GRANT PROPOSAL SUBMITTED! Erik gets a new truck! Kudos to Karyn and Erik and staff for their hard work.

Josh suggests a more specific game plan for items in the work plan.

Mary suggests finalizing our basic work plan to present to the council in July. Karen agrees. Karyn asks for other suggestions to be emailed to her.

Karyn talks about the Madeleine Point property. The Entwistle family is looking to sell a piece of land. Harbor and Waterfront will be at the Town Council Meeting. Karyn expresses that the safety issues were heart-wrenching to hear about.

IN-Person meetings will resume July 7, 2021 with the first one at Camp Soci. All agree. Karyn will find a rain option.

Eb motions to adjourn. Mary seconds. Unanimous at 7:35 pm.