

Yarmouth Parks and Lands  
Meeting minutes  
January 3, 2024  
Committee members:

Karyn MacNeill, YCS Director  
Erik Donohoe, Parks Specialist -remote  
Zoe Wolf, Council Liaison- absent

Mary Thorp (2025)  
Vance Brown (2026)  
Brian Caprari (2026)- chair  
Lisa Small (2025)  
Joe Noel (2024)  
Josh Royte (2024)-absent  
OPEN POSITION

Brian calls the meeting to order at 6:35pm.  
Vance motions to accept the minutes, Joe seconds. Unanimous.

**Erik updates:**

Has been working on invasive removal at the community garden using a forestry mulcher machine. Also a fence has been installed between the property and the neighbor. Should be able to plant a native mix in the spring.  
Brian asks if the post is in for signs and Karyn states that signs are up. Vance asks about how we remove roots. Erik says wood chips are used in addition to the forestry machine.

**Karyn updates:**

Has been working on the memorial bench and tree donation program. Karyn will share the draft with us.  
Mary asks how a tree donation is recognized. And Vance poses how to make a tree donation more desirable. Lisa mentions that not many benches are needed.  
Brian suggests that tree donations could be noted at entrance on the kiosk. Karyn mentions that we could group a bench with several trees for a larger donation.  
Mary mentions the idea for a tree escrow fund, so a portion goes to replace trees in the future thus making a tree donation more desirable and permanent.

**2024 Work Plan:**

Karyn has sent out her latest version ahead of time. Mary brings up several changes that were missed. Karyn makes note of these and says she will send out a revised copy. Lisa and Mary do some word-smithing.  
Joe suggests voting on this once Karyn makes the changes. Karyn says she will get it out and ask Josh for any comments.

**PLC site tours:**

Brian asks if Erik is willing now that he works 6:30 to 2:30. Brian suggests SOCI as the first site walk. Mary mentions that she has talked to Judy Elfring and has a meeting scheduled with the Historical Society for next Friday to get background information.

**Other items:**

Brian recaps the meeting concerning the search for a new town manager. Says it will be a long process and is basically up to the Town Council for approval.

**Protection of park properties discussion:**

Karyn states there are different ways that properties can be protected. Currently, only Fels, Spear Farms, part of Pratts, Riverfront Woods, and Tinker are basically the protected areas.

Vance states that it is a very short list and thinks an education strategy is a good approach. Lisa asks about the Climate Action Task Force and if they have come up with any strategies. Joe states that we need to prioritize the properties for protection.

Erik and Karyn, in answer to a question posed, state that protected properties are listed in the tables of the Open Space Plan. Vance would like to see a collated document listing all the properties and showing which ones are protected.

Joe motions to adjourn, Mary seconds. Unanimous at 7:36pm.