

Yarmouth Parks and Lands
Meeting minutes
Oct. 5, 2022

Committee members:

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

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

Guest: Scott LaFlamme

Ron calls the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Introductions: Brian Caprari, our newest member. He has lived in Yarmouth 3+ years on Stockbridge. Married with 1 child. Enjoys fly-fishing, coaching. Environmental background.

Karyn Updates:

Discusses branding and marketing efforts by the town. Involves the economic development group, staff, and department heads. A working group is looking at colors, icons, and a centralized brand.

Signage-we have a logo design for open space and parks. Budget is for \$20K per year for 3 years. These colors and font are part of the branding. Lisa asks about signage for small parks ex. Grindel

Scott explains that there will be a bid process. Also, a small brand concept i.e. a small flag banner with a Y.

Karyn states it will be brought to the town council the end of the month @ Oct. 20th. Karyn will send pictures of the signs out.

Erik Updates:

A lot of work has been done at Pratt's. Geoff Shallard has helped. Two major bridge patches have been done.

Erik wants our blessing on 3 donated natural granite benches. Generous contribution by Bob Stewart who wanted to "give back" to the park. They are hand cut from a quarry off Granite St. The locations would be on Otter, Moose, and Bear. Lisa and Ron both like the natural look of the stones. Erik will get out a donation letter to the donor.

Vote to accept these benches. Lisa motions, Mary seconds. 5 vote yes-unanimous.

Lisa motions to approve the proposed branding. Ron seconds. 4 vote yes with one abstention.

Tree Committee: Lisa

Concern with how to keep Main St. trees healthy with watering and maintenance being a town wide issue. Water trucks?

They have a new member, Lisa Wilson. That now makes 5 on the committee.

Looking at building infrastructure.

Planning Board Debriefing:

Royal River Park is still waiting for federal funding. Karyn states that it is a long, arduous process. Have a Dec. 1st deadline.

Latchstring Park renovation is a separate committee with a 50/50 match. Karyn states they are close to their fundraising goal and will be going to council when that is reached.

Lisa asks about Ed Libby's comments about a mobile home park overlay in FNF. State law requires areas designated suitable for mobile homes. Reiterates FNF needing protections. Brian and Lisa volunteer to talk with Erin and report back.

Also, concern about new state law increasing density in the district with the goal of increasing opportunities for affordable housing. Scott says it is LD 2003 due to go into effect in Jan. 2023. Questions about overstepping "home rule" authority.

Casco Bay Trail Alliance: Scott LaFlamme

The alliance wants to convert the St. Lawrence and Atlantic line from Lewiston/Auburn to a rail trail. This is currently owned by the DOT. Yarmouth is one of the towns asked to participate on a committee. Seems to be set up for failure. Idea of Rail UNTIL trail (cover rail lines up). Much discussion about continuing as is, passenger rail, rail until trail, combo, etc. There are fierce rail advocates and the process has been very frustrating.

State and L/A have been looking to connect to Portland.

Bike and Ped. Committee have been contacted.

Important meeting on Oct. 27th at 1 pm. Scott encourages attendance.

Mary asks about the Roux Institute response (at the Portland end). Scott will check.

Ron and Mary volunteer to draft a letter of support from the PLC. Scott stresses the value of entities like the East Coast Greenway and the Eastern Trail.

Wrap-up: Ron will send out invitations for preserve walks for Oct./Nov.

Karyn thanks Ron for handling agendas.

Mary states that she will be gone in November visiting family.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm. Mary motions, Brian seconds. Unanimous.