

# Yarmouth Parks and Lands

## Meeting minutes

Nov. 4, 2020

### Committee members:

Lisa Small (2022)  
Mary Thorp (2022)  
Jay Waterman (2021), chair  
Ron Dupuis (2021)  
Richard Brimberg (2020)  
Ebrahim Fazeli (2020)-absent  
Karen Massey (2021)

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

Guests: Will Owen, Harbormaster  
Matt Cannon, Tinker Preserve neighbor

Call to Order: 6:05pm

Acceptance of minutes from Oct. 7, 2020: Lisa motions. Ron seconds. Unanimous.

### Project Updates:

Erik- Good turnout for the Rotary and PLC workdays for Riverfront. Started construction on boardwalk today; should take about 3 weeks. Thank you to Will Owen who drove the boat with materials.

Next 2 Wed. there are Rotary and RRC workgroups.

Geoff Shallard has been helping at Pratt's Brook with brush. There are drainage issues, need for shoring up bridges.

Mary asked if thank-you notes had been send out and Erik replied in the affirmative.

Erik- Garmin is partnering to build bluebird boxes.

Karyn is asked if she can compile a list of people who might be interested in helping at Pratt's Brook from previous interest.

Karyn: Winterkids will be partnering with YCS to replace the storywalk at Tinkers. "Lost.Found."

The extension of the Beth Condon pathway to the Freeport line is in the planning stages. A multi-use pathway will be on the Garmin side of Rte 1. Some of the Memorial gift can be used.

Some parents and Freshmen are looking at building a pump track at an area near the train tracks in the Royal River Park. It would be low-impact and not a taxpayer burden except for in-kind work.

Jay would like to eventually get a skate board park.

Karyn also expressed that the informal pump track at Village Run did not appear to be in current use.

Also mentioned that the minors involved in various acts of vandalism have been referred to the Juvenile Justice Program and may be doing some volunteering with PLC and YCS.

### Tree Committee Updates:

Lisa- the tree committee has its first meeting tomorrow with 5 to 6 people. Hopes to recruit a head for the committee at this meeting. Will update us as things happen.

### Harbor and Waterfront Committee Updates:

Will Owen discussed the waterfront issues at Madeline Point. There is increased usage and greater interaction between competing user groups.

1. Parking is limited and is Residents Only. Violators are charged \$15 by the town. Will issues @100-150 tickets per month.
2. Increased partying on CMP property of various types.
3. Waitlist for moorings is for residents only and is an average of 5 years. Fees paid while on waitlist.

4. Dinghy rack- there are 4 town dinghies for those with moorings. Kayaks are increasingly taking up the rack space. Will is trying to push for an ordinance on this. In answer to a question from Mary, there is no current requirement for name and ID on kayaks.

Karyn stressed the safety issue with boaters coming in and sunbathers on the docks.

Jay asked if increased Covid signage on docks might be helpful. Will states there are user guidelines at all docks. Will says that ideally he would like separate areas for swimmers and boaters. Possibly by adding to the facility or extending the floats out deeper. An initial estimate was @ \$65,000. He is also talking to FPL/CMP about getting 30 parking spaces on CMP land. Short-term, the budget is tight. Restricting use has become increasingly difficult as it has become a high school hangout.

Karyn will research the written ordinance.

Ron asks if it is posted "no swimming".

Will commits to forwarding proposed ordinance to Karyn and then out to the committee.

Jay stresses advocating for ALL citizens and the difficulties in doing this.

Tim says that competing claims for public space is always a challenge.

### **Land Acquisition vs. Land Protection strategies:**

Karen asked to hear from Tim on impact fees. PLC needs to get the big picture on \$ for land acquisition. Could a fundraiser be done?

Jay expresses need for protections on unprotected parcels.

Tim talks about impact fees and explains that he is no expert on this. Impact fees are governed by statute. They are fees that developers pay when a project impacts public space. They cannot be charged for operating costs. The language and framework of the statute is pretty broad. It is NOT an alternative form of taxation.

Lisa has checked with towns of Freeport and Cumberland. Freeport is strictly limited while Cumberland has a separate account which involves acquisition and development rights.

Tim states that towns have been creative. There are conceptual issues and could have some legal questions.

Jay states that in his experience there can be different designations for the fees. A building permit is the point of entry for impact fees.

Karen suggests meeting with the people in Cumberland. And suggests that Alex should be involved.

Jay and Lisa will send out papers regarding this issue.

What are our priorities in this matter?

Lisa feels the highest priority is protecting the land we have.

Karen talks of overlapping things: our already stated priorities, access to water, etc.

### **Board member updates:**

Jay will be stepping down by the end of the year. Needs to prioritize other things. This would leave a 1 year term.

Eb will not be seeking a second term.

Richard has re-upped.

Karen will consider chairing the committee for 1 year.

Next meeting is Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Motion to adjourn: Lisa. Mary seconds. Unanimous. 7:35 pm.