

Yarmouth Parks and Lands
Meeting minutes
January 6, 2021

Committee members:

Lisa Small (2022)
Mary Thorp (2022)
Ron Dupuis (2021)
Richard Brimberg (2023)
Ebrahim Fazeli (2021)- absent
Karen Massey (2021), Chair
Matt Cannon (2023)

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

Guests:
Will Owen, harbormaster
Josh Tompkins
Susan Prescott
Linda Grant
Jackie Schumacher

Karen called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm
Acceptance of Dec. 2, 2020 minutes. Karen motions, Richard seconds, unanimous.

Presentation by Latchstring Park Task Force:

Susan Prescott gives background. Started in 2018 as neighborhood clean-up. Park used as cut-through to avoid light.

A task force was appointed to improve aesthetics, function, and safety with input from neighbors, Coastal Manor and the town.

Josh Tompkins presents his plans. Goals-- to establish a warm and welcoming "pocket park" that promotes a sense of arrival into the Village. Said it is better to have a contiguous green space than two smaller spaces.

Some of the highlights were as follows:

Slide parking to Patty Lane; make end near Church St. a dead-end while allowing pedestrian access; try for relatively low maintenance space by relocating monument, increase drainage by varying the terrain; use densely planted areas; increase seating with some benches (town standard) and granite blocks; place pole lights on multipurpose path (concrete)

Susan (chair of committee) says the new parking will be 10 spaces with 2 hour time limit regulations. Has met with Coastal and they have approved.

Mary, Richard. and Karen all ask for clarification of the parking. The reconfigured spots in the park will be for the public and Coastal will maintain the spots near the building for staff and visitors. This does allow for service vehicles to park, unload, and reverse direction. Josh says the road will still be 24 ft.

Mary asks about reconfiguration of the intersection lights and crossing. Nothing needs to be done at this time, but Susan hopes that a diagonal crossing will eventually be approved.

Karen asks that the plantings display a colorful pallet. Susan agrees.

Linda Grant, representing Latchstring and the Village Improvement Society, talks of the history of repurposing parks. VIS will help monetarily. Wants park to tie into the Streetscape Process.

Mary sees it as a real benefit to the residents of the nursing home along with others.

Lisa inquires about permeable walkways. Josh feels that due to expense, it may not be an option. Mary is concerned about wheelchairs if the pathway surface frost heaves.

Karyn asks about the planted mounds and expresses that there is a difference between "low maintenance" and "easy maintenance". Susan has extensive gardening experience and envisions just Spring and Fall cleanup of plantings. Hopeful there may be some funds for maintenance independent of the YCS budget.

Josh states that they have tried to create "clean lines" for mowing and sidewalk clearing.

Mary asks that local native plants be a priority. Josh concurs and says they will go for a relatively simple pallet.

Karen asks about giving a statement of support for the plans. Richard motions. Mary seconds. Unanimous with 1 abstention (Matt).

Susan thanks us for our time and assures us that it will NOT impact taxes. They will fundraise.

Tim states that the Town Council is keenly aware of costs.

Harbor and Waterfront Committee review of new ordinance proposal.

Will points out that #5 has been clarified. Other uses must be posted. Stresses that priority should be given to loading and unloading at docks. Cleans up the language.

Richard and Lisa like the most recent iteration.

Karen asks about fishing. Will says each dock will be address separately.

Other section in question concerns the dinghy rack. Karyn asks if it is possible to add more rack. Will says possibly another 8 ft. at Madeleine Pt. Possibly could be done at the Old Town Landing with better marking.

Unanimous to approve the proposal.

Tim asks for clarification of the mechanism for approval acceptance.

Boston Post Road Rules:

Erik shows the new signage to be placed at the trailhead. Explains dog rules and that dogs are to be leashed for 100 yds. from the trailhead. No recreational vehicles allowed. Tim would like to see clarification of "under voice control". Committee would like to review when permanent signs go up.

Tree Committee:

Lisa says the committee continues to meet. Looking at a neighborhood tree program with residents input. They have discussed the Ash Borer and ways to increase awareness of the issue. Another meeting is scheduled for Jan. 19th.

Other Business:

Karyn mentions the new Tinker Story Walk boards should be arriving soon.

Mentions that Alex Jagerman is retiring in mid-March. Tim and Karen stress how knowledgeable he is and what a loss for the town.

Re: Rock River Park proposal. Committee agrees that there is a public benefit to the proposed enhancements to Rock River. Karen says that PLC can write a statement that we see a public benefit. Unanimous.

Eb has been appointed to fill Jay's remaining year term. Mary agrees to be secretary for another year and Karen Massey is willing to be chair for one year. Lisa motions, Richard seconds. Unanimous.

Ron motions to adjourn. Mary seconds. Unanimous at 7:47 pm.