

Yarmouth Parks and Lands  
Meeting minutes  
July 5, 2023

Committee members:

Karyn MacNeill, YCS Director-excused  
Erik Donohoe, Parks Specialist  
Zoe Wolf, Council Liason- excused

Mary Thorp (2025)  
Ron Dupuis (2024), chair  
Vance Brown (2023)  
Brian Caprari (2023)  
Lisa Small (2025)  
Joe Noel (2024)  
Josh Royte (2024)

Ron calls the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

Acceptance of June Meeting minutes- Vance motions, Josh seconds. Unanimous.

**Comprehensive Plan:** where to start- inventory chapter material?

Lisa suggests these chapters demand attention: Natural Resources, Forestry, Recreation. Also says that when there is tension between development and open space, development seems to win out. States that we are the densest town in Maine for population.

Joe talks of the existing land use where 89% is single family. With affordable housing needed, renew the focus on multifamily? More efficient housing? He also reminds us that not every property is park material.

Lisa would like to see more re-use of existing buildings and more diversity.

Josh suggests we look at where development can occur. Increase lot density? The deadline is August 21<sup>st</sup>. Are we in the vision stage at this point?

Lisa will contact Erin the town planner to find out more on the dates and the process.

Ron floats the idea of a sub-committee.

Brian has watched some of the meetings on line. Felt some tension b/t those wanting progressive development and retaining a village feel. Also feels the Royal River quality could be in peril.

Josh said that they have tried to get the town council members to go up and down stream to better understand the river.

Ron asks about subcommittee: Brian volunteers, Josh also. Mary said not until after Clam Festival.

Joe says that after reading the documents, they seem to be more about inventory- not real guidance documents. Joe explains. Josh also asks if Erin has all the GIS data?

Lisa will discuss with Erin and let us all know.

Ron recommends that we all look at the documents carefully.

**Frank Knight Forest: Erik**

The dog leash buffer change has been approved by us and will be presented to the council with the ordinance change. At the August meeting, the FKF plan (after Erik sends us out the final copy) will go to a vote and if approved, go to the council in September.

Ron says to review the documents once Erik sends them out. Josh asks about voting now? Mary does not want to vote if she has not seen the final.

Erik mentions that the appendices also need to be added.

**Work Updates: Erik**

Some work has been difficult due to all the rain and lack of drying.

Need a vote on the land acknowledgment. Ron Siviski will present music at the special event in Riverfront to coincide. Ron D. says vote in August.

Lisa asks where we stand on signage. Erik will check with Karyn. Lisa would like to see some production of the approved standards- whatever there is money for. Mary concurs.

Vance asks Erik about the matrix of various park uses (last produced in 2016). Feels there should be more prominent dog signage for all the parks and education about usage between the parks. Is the hunting map on the web for instance?

Vance wants non-computer savy people to have access. Can the grid be laminated at the entrances to the parks and posted?

Brian has questions on the overlay concerning dogs under voice control.

Josh agrees that the matrix needs review. Ron reminds us that we should start park visitations again as a group in the fall.

**Tree Committee: Lisa**

The last meeting was devoted to town ordinances. Council asked for this. Divided up the sections to review. She notes that in the Comp Plan inventory chapter there is very little about trees. Stresses trees are an important part of natural resources.

**New Business:**

Ron announces that his house in Yarmouth is under contract and he will be moving to his home in South Carolina. August 2<sup>nd</sup> will be his last meeting.

Josh speaks for us all when he says Ron will be missed.

Motion to adjourn by Brian, Vance seconds. Unanimous at 7:25pm.