

Yarmouth Parks and Lands
Meeting minutes
Sept. 1st, 2021

Committee members:

Lisa Small (2022)
Mary Thorp (2022)
Ron Dupuis (2021)
Vance Brown (2023)-abs.
Ebrahim Fazeli (2021)
Karen Massey (2021)
Matt Cannon (2023)

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

Karen calls meeting to order at 6:04 pm *in person*.

Acceptance of August 4th minutes. Lisa motions, Ron seconds, unanimous by those who were present at the meeting.

Introduction of Erin Zwirko, new Director of Planning for Yarmouth:

Erin has been on the job for 5 months; background in municipal planning. Talked about looking at impact fees, the comprehensive plan and how to integrate the Open Space Plan into it. Funding will be needed.

Talked about the joint meeting with the planning board on Sept. 22nd at 7pm. Karyn said it is usually informal.

Eb and Karen asked more about impact fees.

Erin: impact fees need to be related to the actual impact ex. more housing leads to increase school expenses.

Karen asked about the amount of proposed development.

Erin- there have been a number of larger projects recently (many recently approved). Another is in process- RR Square.

Erin talks about the comprehensive plan that should be updated (still good til 2023). A number of budget constraints are still to be tackled. May have workshops on the new plan. Also, the town council and planning board have a joint meeting on Sept. 23rd.

Eb asks about federal pandemic funding. Town manager has discussed with council about usage of funds- ex. hazard pay, sewer upgrades

Mary asked about the number of exceptions that have been granted recently by the planning board.

Erin mentions the turnover with board members.

Meeting Policy discussion:

Remote meeting vs. in-person

Tim explains that meetings are governed by laws and statutes that were temporarily suspended by Gov. Mills due to the pandemic. We are now back to the old rules.

Group discusses the *Remote Participation Policy* (Eb and Lisa motion and approved) and votes on the *Order Declaring a Limited Emergency* (Eb and Ron motion and approved by all)

Updates:

Erik: Riverfront Woods- work on carriage trail is proceeding. Permit expires mid-Oct. Three bridges need to be done.

New employee- Eli Chisolm. Lisa asks that it be announced on website. Karyn agrees and mentions that he will be helping with the town gardens.

Erik is completing the West Side Trail Grant. Dan and Will (bike-ped committee) are working on this with YCS. Waiting on cost estimate.

RRCGT- Robert Abbott from North Yarmouth P and L mentioned the possibility for our two groups to meet together some time on mutual issues. They meet the first Wed. of every month.

Karen asks about issues before the Town Council.

Tim states they voted to sell a portion to Sykes- a trapezoidal piece. The price is \$12,500 with an additional donation of \$5000 to land acquisition. This makes the fence currently ½ on his property and ½ on town land. Must maintain the trees.

Tim mentioned that the comments and emails by PLC members mattered.

Group is surprised to find out the sale document has not been signed yet by Sykes.

The take-away when concerned about council items:

Show Up and Speak Up. Lisa concurs.

Tim explains the town council procedure:

Operations/workshop/vote. Issue is NOT supposed to be discussed in operations.

Brief discussion of naming of two town properties. Mary mentions the Sligo Fields area might be better called Sligo Fields and Forest based on visiting the property. Group agrees and is accepting of Village Run Hill for the other.

Dog Control Ordinance:

Workshop is coming up. Royal River Park would go to leash except for the picnic pt. area. Tim states that council is concerned with how to enforce. Karyn stresses that any incidents NEED to be reported. The park should be accessible and welcoming FOR ALL.

Dog control officer is Bobby Silcott.

Lisa suggests emailing a statement to Council. Karen will write something and send it out.

Trash issue in RRP seems to be improving.

Frank Knight Forest:

Erik: Nothing has really happened. Had a few complaints about the cameras which are currently removed per the original planning.

Other:

Money from the history center discussion. \$86,000 for 3 years. \$75,000 from the first year are already earmarked in the current budget. David Craig has been fighting for monies to be returned from whence they came (basically from PLC). Could decision on current year be "unwound"?

Matter of public policy and voter trust. Committee is unanimous that money should NOT be put in general funds and operations.

Karyn expresses concern about the maintenance of the boat ramp and public access to the Royal River by the History Center.

Meeting adjourned. Mary Thorp/Lisa Small, unanimous