

**Yarmouth Parks & Lands Committee**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Date: March 1, 2017**

**Time: 6:00 –8 pm**

**Yarmouth Town Hall, Community Room**

*To advise the Town Council, staff, boards, committees, and the public concerning the funding, acquisition, management, use, and disposition of town lands needed to implement the parks, trails, pedestrian easements, and open-space goals of the community; and to engage the town and public in stewardship, protection, and uses of the natural environment and ecosystems of Yarmouth through public education, shared responsibility and personal experience, and connection to the lands and waters of Yarmouth.*

**Chair: Tony Cowles**

**Notes taken by:**

**Committee members 2017:**

**Present:**

Tony Cowles, Chair  
Mary Webber  
Mary Thorp  
Jamie Carter  
Beth Sturtevant

**Absent:**

Jay Waterman

**Town Council, Staff & Guests:**

David Craig, YTC  
Joy Ahrens, YCG  
Alan Stearns, RRCT, Executive Director  
Irv and Donna Felker, Cousins Island  
Alex Jaegerman, Yarmouth Planning Department  
Karyn MacNeill, YCS Director  
Kyle Warren, RRCT Stewardship Director

**MINUTES**

**Welcome & Introductions**

1. Introductions and welcome for guests and members
2. Yarmouth Community Garden – Joy Ahrens
  - YCG is now an official municipal program existing as a subcommittee of the PLC.
  - Since 2002 the garden has existed on municipal land and has been supported unofficially by YCS and Yarmouth Recycling Facility.
  - YCG provides 180 rental plots to residents(\$30) and non-residents(\$35)
  - YCG Community plot provides tons of produce to Yarmouth and Falmouth food pantry's and do direct delivery of goods to homebound families
  - YCG funds their activities through plot rentals
  - YCG offers a variety of fundraisers and youth programming throughout the garden season
  - **Action Items**
    - Install bike rack
    - Construct shelter for the porta-privy
    - Cut trees shading the western rental plots
      - Boundary location needs to be confirmed before hedgerow cutting.
3. Acceptance of Minutes (February, 2017)
  - Approved pending name and spelling suggestions
    - Attached
4. Yarmouth Planning Department Director- Alex Jaegerman
  - Introduced his background and his review of Yarmouth open space planning and guiding documents

5. Land Acquisition Subcommittee report

- LAsC met to further refine property acquisition priority statement
- LAsC invited Alex, YPD to comment on this statement
- There is currently a \$123K line in the 2017 municipal budget directed toward land acquisition.
- Proposal to reduce 2017 funding to zero dollars will be presented to YTC.

6. Riverboat Preserve (Barker Preserve expansion) - Alan Stearns

- Riverboat is a 22 acre lot between the now State of Maine owned (fmlly SL&A) RR and the Royal River. There is a separate lot separated by the RR with a current residential subdivision application before the YPB.
- Components of an open space acquisition (parking, trailhead access, etc) may be integrated into the design of the subD
- Open space acquisition will be a YTC process. Subdivision application is a YPB process
- PLC is encouraged to take an advocacy role with citizen and municipal leadership to support open space planning, continued funding and acquisition.
- This project is identified as an acquisition priority based on historic guiding documents, Yarmouth Green Infrastructure Planning and by the LAsC GIS models
- There is a larger conservation context this Riverboat project could be a component of.
- RRCT at RRCT cost has commissioned an appraisal
- RRCT is eager to partner with the Town to acquire this land for conservation purposes and offer public access.
- RRCT prefers the Town owns and manages this preserve (expansion) including parking/trailhead and trail development.
- RRCT is looking for clear, strong (unanimous?) signals from PLC, YTC, YPB, Yarmouth executive and leadership that Yarmouth is a willing partner.

7. Sub-Committee Reports

- PBP Signage – Signs are complete and ready for installation.
  - Kyle will confirm storage location for the signs and move them there.
  - Kyle will coordinate installation with volunteers and Parks staff
- Planning Board representation – Jay created a spreadsheet that can be seen by all PLC members. Please sign up for some dates. Many are filled already.
- Open space planning– Tabled

8. Tinker Preserve Management Plan

- First round edits completed by Karyn and circulated for committee edits.
- Review and ready for verbal comments at 4/5 PLC.

9. CPIC

- Karyn, Tony and Kyle will present 2016 CIPS notes to YTC 3/9/17.

10. Adjourn – 8:05pm. Motion to adjourn by Mary Webber, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary Thorp.

**Important dates upcoming**

**3/9/2017 – YTC**

**4/5/2017 – PLC Meeting**

**5/4/2017 – PLC Meeting**