

Yarmouth Parks & Lands Committee
MEETING MINUTES-APPROVED (3.1.2017)

Date: February 1, 2017
Time: 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Monthly meeting

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:

Notes taken by:

Committee members 2016:

Mary Webber
Mary Thorp
Jamie Carter
Jay Waterman
Tony Cowles
Beth Sturtevant

Town Council, Staff & Guests:

Karyn MacNeill, YCS Director
Kyle Warren, Land Steward Director

MINUTES

Welcome & Introductions

- 6:00 - Introductions and welcome for guests and members
- Acceptance of Minutes (December 2016, Jan 2017)
 - December 2016 minutes accepted as presented.
 - January 2017 minutes accepted with changes.
 - Motion to accepted as written above by Beth / 2nd by Mary W. Unanimously approved.
- 6:10-7:00pm Tinker Preserve
 - Management Plan review
 - PLC discussion:
 - Mary Webber – there is no current connection b/t Tinker and Camp SOCI/Sandy Point Road.
 - Jamie – info in original document is anecdotal
 - Tony – warn users that they are about to enter private property (and are not welcomed)
 - Public discussion:
 - Pam Adams – PLC has been more transparent this year. Thank you. Please continue to advertise the information in The Notes.
 - Michael Bedecs – Town’s Camp SOCI users continue to have access to their road. In regards to Tinker, please remove identifications of access from Tinker to Camp SOCI/Sandy Point Road. Be careful of natural habitats and strive to keep the nat’l habitat in Tinker. Please recognize uses of Camp SOCI and manage them to not affect Sandy Pt Road users.
 - Irv Felker – Please incorporate neighbors in future management plans of any and all properties.
 - Donna Felker – bicycles should not be in Tinker. Please keep them off the paths/trails.

- Susie Kendeigh – on behalf of the CILJIA – no bikes at Tinker.
- Chip Ahrens – thank you for notice to public regarding the meeting. Please consider changing the underlined words, similar to “may be” as seen in 2.d. Deed Restrictions section.
- Bill Gregory – please don’t intentionally encourage negative uses. He is supportive of the StoryBook Walk and likes that the property is encouraging use by children. He supports the elimination of bikes at Tinker.
- Deborah Wathen Finn – what process is followed next? Is interested in seeing additional operating costs that go into changes made to properties, like the Story Book Walk, trail improvements, etc.
- Mike Gentile – please disallow bikes in Tinker. Mike emphasized that any trespassing on Drinkwater property is criminal trespass. Please continue to spend money and control invasives.
- Mary Thorp – managing paths/trails: today there was approx.. 1” of ice in the normal puddles.
- Kyle Warren – explained surfacing options and identified the appropriate subsurface and surface layers typically used to improve paths/trails.
- Chip Ahrens – disappointed with the location of the last two Story Book Walk posts. Please consider relocating them away from pond.
- Pam Adams – Tinker is a jewel. Please preserve it.
- Mary Thorp asked about the cemetery and history of it.
- Irv Felker – doesn’t think that dog walkers are a problem out there.
- Jay Kendeigh – dogs have killed numerous of his chickens (at their home). Please try to watch for people who are doing donuts in the Tinker fields.
- Karyn MacNeill – commented to explain that game cameras have been set up over the last year or so to try to catch those who are illegally dumping and spinning their cars through properties. Encouraged neighbors and users to call the police immediately if something is happening out there. Police need to be alerted.
- Beth Sturtevant – The Tinker Plan should also reference the dog ordinance.
- Roy Prussner – there are dog issues with their cats being attacked (on Sandy Point Road).
- Land Acquisition draft proposal / discussion
 - Presented by Jamie Carter
 - make sure that term “Royal River Greenway” doesn’t limit from East Elm Street to Marinas.
 - Mention Land Acquisition fund spending within the recommendation
 - Kyle suggested to not tie Town funds to being part of Land Acquisition when there are other funds that could possibly help purchase lands. Use Town funds to leverage.
- Open Space property updates
 - Projects – Jamie suggested using a spreadsheet to track management actions
 - Plans
 - Pratt’s Brook Park draft will be initially presented to the Town Council on Thursday March 9th at their off camera “Operations Committee” workshop.

- Tinker needs the modifications mentioned tonight and a schedule to determine what is next.
- Royal River Park – possible create a Management Plan in 2018. Karyn suggested that maybe a project plan/scope could be created to move the park along... where the magnitude of creating a RRP Management Plan may be too much with the intricacy of the park's features, the stakeholders, etc.
 - Conversation was to discuss options at an upcoming meeting. PLC members were split in their thoughts on RRP – to do a plan or not.
- Jamie will work on a Camp SOCI management plan. Karyn will try to find info from Josh and Ed to forward to Jamie.
- Sub-Committee Reports
 - PBP Signage – Mary commented that signs are ready to be picked up now, installed come spring. Mary will double check on possibly needing a preservative on top of the paint. She will also work on figuring out how to thank the students for all their hard work and craftsmanship. (aka- Something they would be happy to receive.)
 - 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. Great work PLC!
 - Open Space Plan conversation – nothing to report currently, but keep it on the agenda until a good time comes to talk about contracting it out, creating a subcommittee, or some other way to have specs to put it out for work.
- Adjourn – 8:05pm. Motion to adjourn by Mary Webber, 2nd by Mary Thorp.

Important dates upcoming

3/1/2017 – PLC Meeting

4/5/2017 – PLC Meeting

5/4/2017 – PLC Meeting