

Yarmouth Parks & Lands Committee  
MEETING MINUTES

Date: November 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: Tony Cowles

Notes taken by: Jay Waterman

Committee members 2017 present:

Mary Webber, Mary Thorp, Tony Cowles, Beth Sturtevant  
Karen Massey, Jay Waterman

Town Council, Staff & Guests:

Mike Dubois (WST/Bike-Ped)  
Dan Ostrye (WST/ Bike-Ped)  
Nancy MacBride (WST Abutter)  
Alan Stearns (RRCT)

Absent:

Jamie Carter

Karen MacNeil

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **Welcome & Introductions**

- Call to Order
  - The meeting was called to order at 6:05
- Introductions and Welcome for Guests and Members
  - Dan and Mike noted they were at the meeting primarily for the West Side Trails (WST) discussion
  - Ms. MacBride said she is a WST Abutter concerned about night riding
- Acceptance of October 2017 PLC Meeting Minutes
  - Jay pointed out that the October 2017 meeting minutes noted “Tony also mentioned that someone needs to discuss signage options with WST.” Jay noted that the discussion was more that WST needs to understand there is a standard that all trail signage should follow and PLC can help WST meet that standard. Let the minutes of the October 2017 PLC reflect that change. The meeting minutes were unanimously approved with the above change.
- Dugas Property Discussion / Riverfront Woods Preserve
  - Decisions about LMF funds next week.
  - Alan is looking for confirmation of who will attend the LMF meeting on November 7.
  - Local Yarmouth group, Aging In Place, is asking about wheelchair access from parking lot along First Trail Spur

- PLC received a Request for Comments on subdivision but ADA access was not part of the developer's proposal.
- Mary W. to be at Planning Board next week to act as liaison.
- Dan O suggests using phrase "Universal Access" standards, when we can, for all Yarmouth trails. 5' wide trail @ \$4/lf Using a machine: width is easier and cheaper and people can walk side-by-side. American Trails.org has standards we can use.
- Beth's recollection was that discussion stated Developer was putting in parking lot and trail to the tracks. PLC needs staff to research who is paying and what the surface is. This should be in writing in an agreement between developer and town.
- Discussion re: 'night use' of West Side Trail and consideration of possible restrictions
  - Tony indicated there were some comments sent to the Town regarding concern about night mountain biking on the West Side Trail, particularly on the Southern section on Cousins Island
  - Nancy MacBride on Seaborne Drive around Drinkwater Point: Assumed sunrise to sunset hours; Would like an update on chart regarding all park hours; Those that are riding are not on her property but the flash of headlights from bikes is "unsettling." She is also concerned it is unsafe to ride at night. Trail is 120 feet from property line; not sure how far from house: 50-75 feet
  - Dan noted: Town operates land under license from CMP. That is the Town's "Right Title and Interest" on the WST. There are also agreements with Tyler Technologies and MDOT on their land. Trail runners and walkers are also out on trail. Dan has talked to Mike Morrill. There are posted etiquette rules at trailheads.
  - Tony commented that he is a night-rider on the West Side Trails.
  - Mike Dubois commented that it is not a bike issue, but now there are snow shoe, runners, walkers. Night riding with lights is actually more safe than some other activities.
  - Jay noted that he also is a night rider on the WST and believes it is safe for the riders and that riders are not aware they are near houses most of the time.
  - Tony noted that the PLC was not making any decision tonight and thanked the guests for their comments.
- Camp SOCI Management Plan introduction, outline work to be completed, assign tasks
  - No update from Jamie;
  - Mary and Mary are also helping on this but they are waiting on Jamie.
  - **Does he need someone else to take over as point-person on the Plan?**
- Miscellaneous Reports, as needed
  - PBP Hunting signs (in PBPMP)
    - They are installed
    - Trail signs are being swapped from metal "road-type" post to the 4"X4" wooden post
  - West Side Trail Signage
    - Uniformity for all Yarmouth open space/trail signs
    - Mary to ask maker of signs to show a template
    - We are not talking about taking any signs down on WST. Going forward they will use the new design.
    - There are separate ADA required signs that are outside template standards.
    - Dan agrees that any new signs will be approved by PLC.
    - It was agreed that we need a Signage Standards document that specifies all signage types for different needs with templates/drawings/pictures
  - Land Acquisition

- No activity
- Planning Board Representation
  - Jay noted that he had circulated the sign-up sheet in October.
  - Jay will update the Liaison sign-up sheet for 2018 meetings of the Planning Board and Town Council
- Open Space Plan Conversation
  - Tony noted that Karyn had sent examples of local open space plans to PLC members.
  - Last plan was 1988 Park Plan.
  - More discussion when Karyn is back at next month's meeting.
- Other Business
  - Dan noted, in Important Dates: Dec 23 at 10am there is a Santa Walk and **WST NEEDS a SANTA for this**. Contact Dan Ostrye.
  - McKearney Village
    - We need a trail from this subdivision to WST. Important to do this now before subdivision is complete. Dan has a PDF map of all easements.
    - We should have a map with all the trails and open space. Dan talking to Jamie about this.
    - **Have staff give annual update of any new easements received for the benefit of the Town.**
  - Jay would like to see the **PLC give input on the next version of the Yarmouth Open Space Guide**. Other PLC members agreed.
- Adjourn
  - The meeting was adjourned at 7:40

**Important Dates Upcoming**

**Dec. 3 – 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Carol Sing & Tree Lighting - 5:00-6:00 PM at Town Hall Memorial Green**  
**12/6/2017 – PLC Monthly Meeting**