

Yarmouth Parks and Lands
Meeting minutes
May 5, 2021

Committee members:

Lisa Small (2022)
Mary Thorp (2022)
Ron Dupuis (2021)-temp. chair
Vacant (2023)
Ebrahim Fazeli (2021)-?
Karen Massey (2021)-excused
Matt Cannon (2023)

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

Ron (temporary chair) calls the meeting to order at 6:03pm.
Acceptance of April 7, 2021 minutes. Lisa motions, Matt seconds, unanimous.

STAFF UPDATES:

Karyn- has recently sent out the latest planning board agenda.

Land and conservation grant is due the end of the month. Waiting on letters of support ex. tree committee? Frank Knight supporters?

Need one from Parks and Lands. Lisa will start it and asks for thoughts from others.

Erik- has been doing routine maintenance. Has a new covered trailer. Should help with tool storage. Installing new kiosk for West Side trail off Hillside. Mary comments that it looks good. Erik will be working on one for Boston Post Meadows.

TOWN COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Ron- watching bike and ped. and the waterfront committees

Mary- is on email list for pesticides and has reached out to Tony Cowles

Lisa- Tree committee has met in March and April. Concern about Emerald Ash Borer. Working on education piece, but info is changing rapidly. Hoping for budget line item for mediation. Wants information on web page.

Also talked about desirability of wood bank like in Cumberland. Yarmouth residents can donate and apply.

Discussed fundraising for street trees. Frank Knight Foundation group is allowed to fundraise.

Want a code of acceptable species.

Lisa remarks that it has been a slow start and is hoping for more members.

Mary asks about the Hillside sidewalk trees. Ron will keep his eye on them to see if they are leafing out.

OPEN SPACE GUIDE DISCUSSION:

Erik explains the "click and zoom" functions. Has added "points of interest".

Lisa loved the guided tour. Asks if the text is similar to the old guide and if the side text is similar to the tour.

Erik says the tour features the ten major properties.

Lisa asks if there will be a list of activities for each space.

Erik explains the icons are in progress-ex. swimming, fishing. Also interested in changing the name for the Village Run and getting the Boston Post name established.

Suggestions for icons are historical interest, wildlife viewing and birding (Erik- binoculars?)

Matt suggests one list of properties with colors to differentiate.

Erik mentions trying to utilize the guide from phones- needs to be tested. Also will have a "find my location". Will be adding more trails and users will be able to add photos.

Mary asks about an icon for handicap accessibility. Karyn talks about U.A. of A.D.A.

Eventually it will be accessible from Community Services Website. There will be QR codes at kiosks and also a maintenance issue reporter.

FRANK KNIGHT FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Karyn says it is a large task and hope to work on it after Oct. or Nov. Erik is very pleased that Josh Royte is willing to help (committee concurs).

A first step is the generate a survey and get feedback throughout the summer. Wants to hear from condo associations, abutters, etc. Will try quick brainstorming meetings in the summer.

Lisa remarks that a management plan is a first layer of protections and voices her concerns about protecting this and other properties. Karyn says that PLC will earn advocates when we start on a plan. Lisa volunteers to help. Karyn mentions a tree person that might be interested. Matt also will help.

WORK PLAN:

Karyn reviews: land acquisition and forest management are still on the docket

Committee wants to make sure signage is on the list. Lisa mentions the logo winner and the desire to use stickers until new signs can be made.

Committee feels that we should still present a work plan to the new council in June per Lisa's suggestion.

Ron asks that we all submit ideas for the work plan and will discuss it further next month.

Karyn will send out the previous plan.

Matt also suggests we reflect on how best to move forward with the work plan.

Ron also mentions a possible impact fee and says it could be location specific.

Lisa motions to adjourn. Mary seconds. Unanimous at 7:17pm (time is questionable).