

Yarmouth Parks and Lands

Meeting minutes

July 14, 2021

Committee members:

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

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

Karen Massey calls the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

Acceptance of June 2, 2021 minutes. Ron motions, Eb seconds, unanimous.

Update on Camp Soci neighbor request:

Tim says the council did read and note the PLC letter. There are a range of possible decisions. Ed

Ashley gave a detailed and thoughtful review of Zoning rules ex. shorefront protection, state overlays, resource protection district. Council wanted a pause to consult a lawyer.

If money is paid to the town, the general feeling seemed to be to designate it to public lands.

Mary questioned the statement made by councilor Waeldner concerning the right of way over the berm being just for local residents. Wondered if she misunderstood him. This may have been the case originally under CMP ownership, but when the current resident erected the fence on the berm, Soci was town owned and anyone could access the path on the berm.

U.L. said that people don't realize how difficult it is to acquire public land on the water. Parks and Lands testimony needed.

Tim mentioned that Nat saw no adverse possession against the town. Also talked about the public trust.

Updates:

Erik: The fieldwork has been done for the wetland delineation and the invasives survey at Spear Farm. Need new boardwalks there.

Karen mentions a tree on the trail at Spear. Asks about the bench honoring a dog. What is the process for this?

Karyn says there are two bench prototypes to choose: metal @\$1100-1300 and recycled composite@\$1900. Says that Community Services rejects as many requests as it approves. Eb asks if only residents can request a bench.

Lisa asked to look at the guidelines. Ron wants to be mindful of the number of benches. Committee generally agrees that they would like to review the guidelines.

Ron asked what firm was used for invasive mapping. BassEnviro (?)

Erik continues with updates. There is a new volunteer group to work on boardwalks.
At Riverfront Woods, carriage trail should be started along with a UA and emergency access removable bridge in honor of Gil Broberg . Lisa asks about the UA requirements.

Town Committee updates:

No news to report.

Frank Knight Management Plan:

The survey is ready and will be noted on kiosks and website. A letter is going out to the direct abutters. Karyn suggests sending it out ASAP.

Also, game cameras will be placed at the two major entrances (East Main and Plimoth). What about the Brookside path? Also, Eb asks that visitors are made aware of the cams. Yes is the answer.

Erik says the management plan will really get going in the fall.

Rail Trail discussion:

Karyn encourages us to weigh in with the council. The council will be looking at forming an advisory committee with the goal of advising the state not to renew the St.L freight permit.

Karen suggests a statement from the PLC on this matter. Also clarifies that the RR line we are discussing is the one that runs right through town by the old railroad station.

Sign Standards:

Lisa and Karyn are waiting on the visuals.

Lisa states there are 3 standard types: a. large post and panel for large parks b. flag style c. narrow banner (ex. village parks).

Signs would be dark green with large white lettering. 6 inch grey granite posts are recommended for large signs.

Eb asks will our logo be on it? Assured that it is a major component.

Karyn says we need to finalize names for Sligo property and the Village Run. Mary suggests thinking of names and deciding at next meeting.

Work Plan discussion:

Talk of how we get money for acquisitions—appropriations in the budget, Land for Maine's future, impact fees. Eb- who gets the money from impact fees?

Tim explains that impact fees should actually look at the ACTUAL impact. What impacts do you choose to try to recover from the fee.

Karyn says the new CIP budget is coming up and that the August meeting needs to look at this AND that support is needed.

Mary motions to accept the work plan (minus the "other??") and get it to the council. Ron seconds. Unanimous.

Other Business:

Karyn has received a number of comments about trash in the park. "Carry in and carry out" seems to work in all the parks except Royal River. Counted 300-400 people per day using the park. Situation is improving, but takes time to educate and retrain users.

Tim asks why the policy? Karyn and the committee explains that users were abusing the barrels by bringing in household trash and that emptying them was utilizing too many staff work hours. Karyn was also trying to get ahead of the possible instituting of "pay for household trash" bags in the next couple of years. Karen states that PLC was very supportive of this measure. Eb is assured that trashcans are put out for big events like concerts and then removed.

Karyn announces that Lori from Community Services will be leaving for a new job and that they are also looking for a park maintenance technician.

After some discussion about who can make the first two wednesdays in August, it is decided that the meeting will be August 4th. Karyn and Karen will be absent. And there is currently one vacancy. Ron will preside and it will be held in person at the Town Hall.

Mary motions for adjournment at 7:37pm. Ron seconds. Unanimous.