

Yarmouth Parks and Lands

Meeting minutes

April 7, 2021

Committee members:

Lisa Small (2022)
Mary Thorp (2022)
Ron Dupuis (2021)- absent
Richard Brimberg (2023)
Ebrahim Fazeli (2021)
Karen Massey (2021), Chair
Matt Cannon (2023)

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

Guest: Josh Royte

Karen calls the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

Acceptance of minutes from March 3, 2021: Eb motions, Lisa seconds, Unanimous.

Updates: Erik

Met with environmental conservationist about Spear invasives mapping. Will prioritize other needed work around town, also.

Josh mentions work by Wommack for the Royal River Trust about previous work.

Asks about whether it is by zones? By grids?

Erik says he is concentrating first on distinct priority areas- those with bittersweet, honeysuckle, black swallow wart, etc.

Karen asks about the status of the guide and app. Erik is waiting for some approvals and will run it by the town engineer. It is mostly done and he asks for help in reviewing. Karen volunteers to help proof.

Updates: Karyn

Will be trying for an AARP grant to make Riverfront Woods more age friendly. Will need help to get approvals. Reached out to Leigh Kirchner of the Aging in Place group.

Perspectives on Open Space Implementation Planning and Preparations: Josh Royte

Josh has been involved with open space for many years and helped to develop the first open space guidebook with Kay Kendrick and others.

Josh states that prioritizing is key- what should be worked on first? Some things are easy fixes while others require more time, effort, and expertise. Talks about "green areas" being under the Parks and Lands committee.

Karyn asks us all to think how we can engage other committees.

Josh talks of one priority- maintaining and enhancing current town owned properties. Ex.

Latchstring, Maine Streetscape, Village Green

Talks about the extended study area from the Yarmouth Harbor to NY town line.

Karyn talks about the Royal River improvement grant that we are hoping to receive. Karyn says that Community Service received over 300 replies to the survey.

Josh stresses the importance of looking at the WHOLE corridor.

Josh also mentions management plans and volunteers to help with the Frank Knight Forest plan and will help in a more limited capacity with the others.

Karyn talks of the other management plans that we have done-Pratts, Fels-Groves, Tinker, Spear
Karen asks if we should do one management plan a year?

Josh talks of staff facilitation. Uses Frank Knight Forest as example of many involved stakeholders. Floats the idea of midsummer public meetings.

Lisa mentions our concerns regarding extending protections to FKF.

Josh- how do we prioritize? Suggest s prioritizing new acquisitions around values that have stood the test of time: ex. scenic views, water quality, waterfront access

Need to involve owners and abutters. Ex. Blueberry Cove connecting to harbor front

One large problem is that there is **no** budget to move on possible acquisitions.

Tim will check on current budget proposals. Mentions that impact fees from new subdivisions are on the council agenda. Town is trying to establish a connection between new construction and costs to sewer, water, education, parks traffic, etc. per bedroom. Looking for associative ratio for correlation. Idea needs more buy-in from town residents.

Tim also says that there is nothing proposed in land acquisition funding. Fund currently has \$34,000. Community Service is lobbying for an additional staff person.

Mary states that when applying for grants we need to show town's desire to support land acquisition.

Josh talks of implementation of Open Space Plan- a natural resource opportunity.

Three Good Things: 2016- Village Run, 2018- Dugas property, 2019- Pleasant Street

Josh mentions that shoreland ordinances have decreased some protections. Need to present incentives to current landowners. Look at donating property, tax benefits.

Possible new land acquisition bond from state. Town has always supported these types of bond funds.

Karen states that it is great to have people with long history of conservation like Josh. Also says that at some point, another comp plan will be due.

Karyn reiterates her desire to engage other committees. Karen says we are trying to reactivate connections and also to be more aware of the other committees and their work.

Josh presents a chart that shows where there are connections and stresses the importance of knowing what the other committees do.

Karen suggests sharing the matrix with the planning board and the planning dept.

Lisa asks about the new town planner and says we should try to meet. Karyn states that the new person is Erin Zwirko from the Arlington, Wellesley and Melrose, Mass. areas.

Town Committee Assignments:

Ron has compiled the list. Karyn asks for people to “watch” agendas for these.

RRCT

Planning board

Trees- Lisa

Pesticides- Mary volunteers

Recycling

Harbor and Waterfront

Bike and Ped.

Energy efficiency

Water district

Other business:

Eb asks about brown tail in Yarmouth? Karyn says not bad in this area. Mary agrees.

Warnings about watching for the Emerald Ash borer.

Karen asks if she can send out the PLC comments about the float variances. Committee says yes.

And talks about vegetation management and high winds.

Karen closes by thanking Richard Brimberg for his service to Yarmouth since he is leaving the area for a new job. Committee members concur.

Matt motions to adjourn. Richard seconds. Unanimous at 7:26 pm.

Karyn reminds us to send her any items that we want on the agenda.