

Yarmouth Parks and Lands

Meeting minutes-

March 4, 2020

Committee members:

Karen Massey (2021)- absent
Mary Webber (2021)
Lisa Small (2022)
Mary Thorp (2022)
Jay Waterman (2021), chair
Richard Brimberg (2020)
Ebrahim Fazeli (2020)

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

Others:

Steve Johnson, town engineer
Eric Street, public works dept.
Scott LaFlamme. economic devel.
Ed Ashley, visitor

Call to Order: 6:01 pm

Acceptance of Feb. 5, 2020 minutes. Motion- Lisa Seconded-Richard. Acceptance- unanimous.

Meeting with Dept. Heads:

Eric Street:

A number of road projects are being finished ex. W. Main St., Church St. Hillside. Also working on the Main Street Streetscape plan

Jay stressed the importance of connectivity and involving a number of components; committee reconstruction

Steve Johnson discussed the planning board process. Karyn stated that timing can be tricky with the planning board meetings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays

Jay mentioned about the changes at the Royal River Park due to the Rowe School expansion. He felt that he and PLC had missed a chance for some comments. Several members agreed.

Scott LaFlamme talked about the upcoming budget season and the development fund.

1. complete street plan from Patriot's to Willow
2. sideway at Maples and Bayview St. extension
3. streetscape plan- Center St. island and 343 Main st. (replace driveway with connectivity) Would like to connect RRPark with Mill St. extension
4. Looking at Railroad Square and a mixed use trail from Cleaves to Maine rail trail ; then to Main St. to the history center
5. Also working on curb extension and NYA project with better drainage.

Scott felt there was good forward momentum with streetscape improvements. Has applied for a grant.

Committee glad to hear about the increased walkability with the Community Center project at the Masonic Hall.

Mary Webber mentioned the Center St area and the "pocket park" and the poor signage. Karyn mentioned that the Baptist Church is willing to contribute.

Scott mentioned a number of future plans:

1. better lighting on Elm St. at Royal River Park
2. downtown WiFi hot spots
3. redevelopment of properties with a view to open space
4. Latchstring Park redevelopment
5. Upgrade to Blake Skating Pond area

Mary Webber stressed the desire of Parks and Lands for uniform signage.

Lisa and Mary W. talked about the development of a PLC logo by early summer.

Mary T. inquired about the 5 acre lot behind Railroad Square. Scott will send the info to Karyn.
Ed voiced concern about cars coming off of South St. and Jay mentioned having a street grid to look at.

Karyn gave highlights of the PLC work plan:

1. a revised Open Space guide
2. Riverfront Woods – Management plan must get finalized for LMF grant
3. Working on forestry management plan with Karen Massey

Karen emphasized the the Open Space Plan guides the PLC decisions.

Jay mentioned out continuing work on management plans for various parks.

Steve: working on connections from Pratt-Abbott with sidewalks with a cross walk across Rt. 1. Also trying to connect to Lower Falls from Lafayette St. (under 295?) and connect town landing and the waterfront

Mary W. urged Steve to talk to business owner about potential impacts of sidewalk placements ex. Mr Bagel

Scott: talked about PPI (planning partner initiative (\$50,000 grant). Looking to link Beth Condon pathway to Cousins river. Town of Freeport on pathway to YMCA while Yarmouth works on a crosswalk past DeLorme.

Beth Condon's father had passed away and the family has made a donation.

The crossing over the Cousins River will be a 10 foot wide multi-use path.

Scott also talked about the GIS (geographic information system). It will show trails, bridges, open space.

this can be edited and updated (Jamie and Josh are both familiar with this). Jay felt this helped to connect info on public spaces with the user.

In answer to a questions by Mary W.,

Scott stated the updates are done every couple of years by the state with airplanes.

Eb asked about the considerations for maintenance of all these projects. Scott replied that all of these require physical equipment and the people to run them. Rich mentioned the idea of a physical "trigger" ie. a new 5 miles of road could trigger a particular amount or more staff hours from the developer.

Erick and Karyn:

1. talked about the Village Run sandpit and the meeting with the homeowners' association.
2. Erick mentioned the informal path from Fieldstone to McKearney
3. Riverfront Woods Management Plan. UL asked about suggestions on trail closures.
Tim Shannon will let the Town Council know that this will be presented soon. Will be redline version with bullet points. Eb motioned and Mary W seconded. Unanimous.

Dog Park update: Mary Webber. Basically, back to square one.

Susan Hamil, whose father donated the original 35 acres of Pratt's, stated that it would not be in keeping with his vision and wishes.

Misc.

Eb mentioned about the possible and current closures due to the Coronavirus. General feeling was not to panic, but be aware.

Eb motioned for adjournment. Richard seconded. Unanimous at 7:56pm.