

Yarmouth Parks and Lands
Meeting minutes-
May 6, 2020

Committee members:

Karen Massey (2021)
Mary Webber (2021)-absent
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

Guests:

Erica Johanson
Andrew Majewski
Rebecca Robich
Anne Jackson

Zoom Call to Order: 6:05 pm Jay chairing meeting

Acceptance of March 4, 2020 minutes. *Motion*- Richard *Seconded*-Lisa Karen-*abstain*. Acceptance- unanimous.

Discussion of Larrabee's Landing issues:

Rebecca Robich: concerns about the 0.6 acre parcel

1. re-evaluate hours that it is open?
2. Parking is unsafe. Max of four cars?
3. Need for signage at entrance. Boundary with Jackson property is unclear
4. Clarification about drugs and alcohol prohibited.

Karyn:: the outdated guide is merely an estimate of parking spaces. Need to consult chapter 501. Also, will get town deed to clarify.

Tim: consults Google aerial view of property.

Jay: is there a way to designate the spaces better?

Karyn- property needs to be re-measured. Can speak to town manager about possibly establishing new rules.

Rebecca: currently an unsafe environment with lights and noise late. Need clear rules and regulations.

Eb: is it high-schoolers? And are the police aware?

Karyn: Rebecca met with the police a year ago to discuss these issues.

Mary T.: Could small signs be posted NOW with rules and a map? Jay agrees and feels a kiosk is too large.

Karen: Could parking be designated better?

Jay invites comments by neighbors:

Anne Jackson echoes Rebecca's comments.

Patty Viegel- often multiple cars looking for space to park. Signage would be helpful.

Eb: Has anyone reached out to the YHS principal?

Jay: personally prefers hours of sunrise to sunset. Karen stresses the “big picture” and that change in hours requires a town-wide decision. Richard agrees that we need to be consistent. Jay wonders about the options for parking.

Tim: would like to see the actual rules. Karyn will email a copy of the deed to us and will include the neighbors in the email.

Neighbors are thanked for their time in bringing their concerns to us.

Update from Erik:

Projects are moving forward, although mostly solo. The pandemic has slowed permitting a bit. Support needed at the June 10th Planning Board meeting.

Fieldstone connector is the other big project. Got approvals already. Need out-reach to abutters via letter and a small meeting.

Volunteer groups will be limited, if able to happen at all.

Tinker abutter is willing to help with invasives and possibly do some planting (?). PLC will reach out to Mary Webber on this. Jay asks about the switching of the story on the story walk. Karyn explains that the other towns backed out of the exchange. Plans for 2 more stories are in the works and then they will be rotated through the year.

Update from Karyn:

Parking restrictions have been largely lifted. However, the Community Garden is “permitted parking” only and restricted to different days. This policy was decided with input from the police. Hope to lift restrictions by June 1st. Also, Royal River Park is limited to every other parking space.

Eb: has seen overcrowding at picnic point. Tim wants to update the town council.

Jay: notes that East Main St. sidewalks are dangerous and not currently on the repair agenda.

Jay: the plan for Riverfront Woods was approved in April. Karyn will send it to the committee.

Karyn voiced concern about kids altering the parcel by the sledding hill by creating new trails and a mini bike track behind the neighbors’ property. This could make acceptance by the 6F conversion committee problematic. Erik voiced concern about erosion and root vegetation issues. Erik and Karyn felt the teens were resistant to the prohibition of their activities. Tools were left at the site and were confiscated. Erik felt that this suggests a need for mountain bike opportunities.

Mary T: asked about restoring and disguising the alterations. Erik felt this was doable.

Richard: talked about re-directing the teens’ efforts to somewhere else. Asked about a pump track.

Jay felt this is a chance to involve more young people in town about something they care about. Karyn suggests a subgroup and will reach out to the two teens who were most involved.

Eb suggests contacting the Interact Club at the high school.

Tim: subgroup could be a complement to Parks and Lands.

Logo contest:

Lisa says pending contest only has 3 entries. Need more publicity. Blurb in the NOTES. Open to Yarmouth residents only. Mary suggests reaching out to the art teachers in Yarmouth and to local NYA students. Richard requests the logo info sent to the committee.

Meeting reminder:

Jay reminds PLC members that representation at meetings of planning board and town council is needed. Will send out new meeting schedule. Important meeting on June 10th.

OTHER:

Erik mentioned salamander and wood frog eggs in 3 of the 4 vernal pools at Riverfront. Karen has recently been there and concurs.

Motion to adjourn: Lisa. Richard seconds. 7:28 pm Motion unanimous.

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