

Yarmouth Parks & Lands Committee

MINUTES

Date: October 5, 2016

Time: 6:00 – 8:30 pm

Yarmouth Town Hall, Community Room

*****Updated and approved on 11/2/2016*****

To advise the Town Council, staff, boards, committees, and the public concerning the funding, acquisition, management, use, and disposition of town lands needed to implement the parks, trails, pedestrian easements, and open-space goals of the community; and to engage the town and public in stewardship, protection, and uses of the natural environment and ecosystems of Yarmouth through public education, shared responsibility and personal experience, and connection to the lands and waters of Yarmouth.

Chair:

Minutes taken by: Karyn MacNeill

Committee members 2016:

Beth Sturtevant
Tony Cowles
Jay Waterman
Mary Webber
Jamie Carter

Town Council, Staff & Guests:

Kyle Warren, Land Steward Director
Karyn MacNeill, Town's YCS Director

Welcome & Introductions

- Introductions and welcome for guests and members
- Approve Minutes
 - Jay Waterman made a motion to approve Sept 2016 minutes
 - Mary Webber 2nd the motion – all voted to unanimously approve Sept 2016 minutes
- Tinker Preserve Discussion
 - Eagle Scout Project
 - Karyn MacNeill provided a little background and brief history of the project
 - Comments from the public were opened for discussion:
 - Irv Felker, Hillcrest Ave: provided history of Tinker Preserve and the progression of the property. He commented on his concerns with the permanence of the concrete bases and posts and that it changes what the property “has been.” He felt there were not enough conversations with stakeholders. Lastly explained that the pavement to the homes at the end of Seal Lane was nixed twice.
 - Maria Atkins, Sandy Point Road read letter from Michael Bedecs. (Letter attached.) Concerns are from the impact to abutting landowners.
 - Pam Adams, Spruce Point Road: Explained that she felt the project was not appropriate at Tinker. Concerned with a lack of transparency. Expressed that PLC should use the methodology of David Adams – take time and continually use transparency in discussions and projects. She suggested a location of Camp SOCI for the project.
 - Tim Caulfield, Sandy Point Road: expressed his opinion of neglected ownership of Sandy Point Road (by the town). Bike use at Tinker are his family and they love Tinker more for it. Parking at SOCI was an issue in the past. Work at Camp SOCI was done without notifying neighbors.
 - Joy Ahrens, Cousins Street: Originally was opposed to the idea of the Story Walk at Tinker, but saw similar projects in Payson Park and another location and liked it.

- Chip Ahrens, Cousins Street: There are other users of Tinker who are complaining about the project being there. Suggested that the PLC remain in contact with the CILJIA for future concerns and have the meeting at the Cousins Island Community House. He asked how often the story would be changed and would hope the story changed more often than originally intended. He is also concerned with the permanence of the posts/project.
- Donna Felker, Hillcrest Ave: Concerned that there is only parking for 3 cars and that there is no more room for parking out there. Also concerned with the permanence of the project in Tinker.
- Mike Dow, Hillside Road: Asst Scout Mater of the local Boy Scout troop and promised to have Boy Scouts involved in removing the project at any time it was deemed unused, underused, or if it impacted the property with negative uses.
- Mary Thorp, Rogers Road: with her experience in park volunteerism she feels it's important to teach people to protect our outdoor properties by teaching them to love them. (More accurately explained in her exact quote.) She feels the book chosen will fulfill the educational piece of the deeded property.
- Frank Harrison, Cousins Street: Echo comments of Irv Felker and served with Katherine on the 1966 School Committee. Frank was the "1st conservator" on behalf of the School Board. Doesn't support cement.
- Joe MacDonald – deed reflects similar benefits that this project will provide to the residents and to the Preserve.
- Donna Felker (x2): put agendas in The Notes.
- Joan Dollarhite, Yankee Drive: show support to attract more resident to use our parks. Supportive of this project in this location.
- Deb Serino, Sandy Point Road: Little to no impact in the way the property is currently used.
- Ethan Hunt, Leonard Lane: The Eagle Scout candidate responsible for the Tinker Property. He expressed his concerns and understanding of this project. He provided some background on how long he's worked on this project, collected donations, and invested time. He doesn't feel that it violates the deed restrictions any more than it would to not have people use the park – matching well with Katherine Tinker's goals of getting people into the preserve for educational and environmental purposes.
- Steven Hunt, Berryfield: concerned with parking.
- PLC Comments:
 - Mary: Doesn't think it fits the property, but those who have already worked on it have invested time.
 - Jay: concerned with maintenance of the posts and pages.
 - Jamie: parking might be an issue.
 - Beth: agrees with the parking becoming a concern and hopes that the signage will be changed out appropriately.
 - Jay: expressed that he would like to see the project take place at Tinker.
 - Tony: he can foresee many people riding or walking to get to Tinker to enjoy this amenity. Thanked the crowd for their interest in and passion for

this Preserve. He recommended that PLC will work to increase notifications to residents. He believes that this project will help to increase the use of the property for educational or conservation purposes. He wanted to remind people that all parcels of our Open Space and Parks are for all of Yarmouth residents not just those who live nearby. He also commented on the management plan for Tinker. And, that similar to the interpretive panels throughout various parks, they are successful in getting people out into the parks while providing a bit of education to the parks' users.

- Beth: proposed a motion to...move the project forward as planned. This was 2nd by Tony. Comments by the PLC included: Jamie wanted to assure that parking and maintenance will be supported by the town. That Yarmouth's BSA would be in support for this project's maintenance. Beth and Jay commented that the durability of the concrete would be below grade 2-3' to ensure the stability of the posts.
 - Motion: To move the proposed project forward with the understanding that the local Boy Scouts would be responsible for future maintenance of the project posts and signage that was beyond the realm of Yarmouth Community Services.
 - All in favor – passed unanimously.
- Other – Tinker Preserve: trail upgrades/bikes
 - Bikes: Irv Felker recommended that the PLC and the Town do not encourage use of the private properties that abut Tinker. Fix and adjust the Tinker Management Plan accordingly.
 - Trail upgrades: Chip Ahrens – just notify the CILJIA regarding property upgrades when time comes to do work.
 - David Belleville stressed that he believes the PLC missed the point of the “notification intent” of Mr. Ahrens' comment.
 - Bikes: Tony commented on the property NOT currently being in its natural state.
 - Steven Hunt commented that bikes are terrible for pathways
 - Irv Felker commented that Tinker should be considered similar to other Preserves and not allow bikes in it. He provided a (24-name signed) petition and photos of the property with tire ruts along the path.
 - *“We, the undersigned “Friends of Tinker Preserve,” petition the Town of Yarmouth to prohibit bicycles in the Preserve in support of Mrs. Katherine Tinker's express desire to keep the Preserve natural and wild, the condition in which the Preserve was granted to The Nature Conservancy by Mrs. Tinker.”*
 - Rationale for Bicycle Prohibition included 4 detailed points. (Attached).
- 10 minute break
- Pratt's Brook Park Mgmt Plan Revision Updates
 - Update – Tony provided a summary handout from which the Committee worked on the following topics and changes to the Management Plan:
 - Bicycles in PBP
 - Dogs and Pets

- Hunting
 - Horses – should use the biking phrase
- A PLC straw poll on Biking indicated that the PLC members were in favor of considering biking in PBP and incorporating it in the upcoming Management Plan revisions.
 - Beth: Believes it is a slippery slope, but willing to try it.
 - Jay: Some trails should be “not for bikes”
- Schedule for meeting, Nov. 17, 2016
- Adjourn, 8:48pm
 - Motion to dismiss was made by Beth and 2nd by Jay. All in favor of the end to the night’s meeting.

Important upcoming dates:

11/2/2016 – PLC Meeting

11/17/2016 – Pratt’s Brook Park Mngmt Plan Revision Public Meeting

12/7/2016 – PLC Meeting