

Yarmouth Parks and Lands
Meeting minutes
Dec. 7, 2022

Committee members:

Karyn MacNeill, YCS Director
Heather Abbott, Council Liaison-
Erik Donohoe, Parks Specialist

Mary Thorp (2022)
Ron Dupuis (2024), chair
Vance Brown (2023)
Brian Caprari (2023)
Lisa Small (2022)
Joe Noel (2024)
Josh Royte (2024)

Guest: Karen Orenstein

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

Erik Updates:

Invasive management:

PLC has used Erik Lima from Basswood environmental to help with invasive management. Targeting buckthorn in particular and can have licensed treatment for 4 days. i.e. 1 day in FKF, 1 in Riverfront with the scenic wetland, and 2 in Pratt's. Another 6 days of tx are in the budget before July. Bittersweet can be treated in the winter.

Josh asks if that is possible and Erik replies that it is if it is above freezing.

Vance asks about the type of herbicide stating that it is always of concern.

Erik explains that you cut and treat the stem directly. This type of approach is used by major conservation organizations. Josh concurs.

Vance would like to see the spec sheets.

Pratt's Brook benches:

All three granite benches are in. Geoff Shallard helped with the engineering and in recruiting neighbors. The donor is very excited.

Ron suggests that we make this the next PLC walk.

Invasives part 2:

Karyn mentions that Erik and Eli have been trying to help neighbors identify invasives so there is a buffer between their properties and the public lands.

Brian asks about informational identification of invasives. Erik explains that there are a few posters, but that the state has some great websites. Erik floats the idea of an awareness campaign.

Karyn suggests we look at what Falmouth has been doing.

Tree committee updates: Lisa

They have 2 new members so they are full with 7 total.

They have been reviewing tree ordinances including webinars.

The tree warden has done a lot of work particularly with hazard trees near the library and skating pond.

Committee has been in contact with Wild Seed Project and are updating the recommended tree list with some new suggestions and giving further explanations about choices.

Vance asks about the tree ordinance. Lisa says that they are trying to define legacy trees, updating restrictions, defining tree protection on developing sites. Ex. using real measures and standards. They are really trying to help with species selection. For example, Hancock has asked for suggestions.

Ron states that he has been impressed with the new tree warden.

Karyn updates:

Work Plan-updated every year. Helps with focus both long and short term. Needs to be reviewed by February.

Mary asks about the Royal River Park grant application. Karyn says that it is still pending.

Josh would like to see a single page with action plans under the bullets. Karyn will get it in a word document. Joe asks if everyone is comfortable with google docs.

Josh also asks about updated site plan reviews. In conjunction with the planning board?

Karyn says that we are participating in the major comp plan review over the next 1 and ½ years.

Lisa asks about signage. Karyn states the council has given approval so we can move forward. Blaze Partners

Lisa asks about the FKF management plan. Erik states that it is pretty complete and will send out draft. Will be scheduling public meetings. Josh asks about procedure.

Karyn suggests May or June.

Ron urges us to get our edits back to Erik by Jan. 2nd.

Mary will get the Bluffs Association contact to Erik.

Other Business:

Brian and Lisa had asked about the overlay in FKF. It was the result of a state mandate in the 80s. Not really an issue at this time.

Ron mentions 90 Main st.

Mary mentions the railroad square development and that she spoke to a long-time Yarmouth resident who said that it was an industrial site with some toxicity.

Mary also gave a brief synopsis of the Rail/Trail public meeting.

Karyn also updated us that the demolition at the corner of Main and South is delayed. And that the last mile of the Westside Trail is hoping to move forward with a grant.

Brian asks about the background of the Bike/Ped committee.

Karyn also explains that they have tried to switch from a traditional Christmas theme to a Celebration of the Season.

Also, Mary asks about any parking space backlash about Latchstring. Heather states that it is only going from 15 to 11 or 9.

Motion to adjourn by Josh. Seconded by Brian. Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm