**North Yarmouth Parks Committee**

Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Wescustogo Community Center

**Minutes**

1. Call to Order at 6:03pm. Present: Bob Abbott, Laurie Gilman, Elise Kern, Kelly Barnes, Marty Kremer. Karl Cyr (Select Board liaison)
2. Approval of Minutes. March meeting minutes approved as written 5-0
3. Public Comment – no public present
4. Old Business:
   1. Forest management plan, Paul Larrivee – Committee has a proposed plan in hand for Eleanor Hayes Town Forest and Chandler Brook. Laurie to send to the Committee via email.
   2. Invasives update, Erik Lema – Committee has a proposed plan in hand. Erik is willing to present this to the Select Board. Laurie to send to the Committee via email for review.
   3. Climate Action Subcommittee – Elise. No update at this time.
   4. Baston Park -update and project review. The park has been surveyed recently for the Royal River Dam removal project. Laurie had emailed the latest Army Corps of Engineers update to the Committee. Current estimates project up to 2 feet of water drop at most. Karl noted that he and Andrea will be meeting with a Yarmouth Town Councilor in the near future to discuss this situation further and to remain connected to the project.
   5. Ordinance review/update – Laurie provided a revised draft of the Ordinance for Committee review. The Committee agreed that the draft is ready to be passed to the Town Manager for review, to hopefully be included in this year’s Town Meeting.
   6. List of projects involving Public Works. Laurie and Bob have not yet sent a worklist of projects to Public Works for their work lists, this will be tackled soon.
   7. Village Center trail report – Bob reported that he walked the prospective trail with the developer several weeks ago. The plans for the trail were discussed at length, including placement, grinding of stumps, drainage. The goal is to complete this work as soon as the ground is dry enough to allow for the machinery to enter.
   8. Parks Reports Round table
      1. OTHP woodwork and flooding – Marty has researched tie down bars to keep the bridges from floating away. Laurie was able to reach a representative from the Rachel Carson Wildlife Preserve, and obtain a map of the designated area. They also confirmed that the Town of North Yarmouth has the authority to allow, or forbid, the use of snowmobiles in this area.
      2. OTHP other – Karl noted the need to prioritize maintenance differently the parts of the park that stay dry all year long, vs those that flood frequently.
      3. Sam Ristich Trail – Elise met with Wild Seed Project to discuss educational signage. They will provide guidance and expertise, and the Committee would provide funding. They have some mapping of this area in hand, and will revisit it again in the spring to add anything else.
5. New business
   1. Knight’s Pond wetland trail - Bob discussed this with the owner of the wetland parcel at the edge of Knight’s Pond. A boardwalk trail has been proposed to complete the Knight’s Pond loop, and there is initial approval to do so. Many government agencies (like DEP, etc) may need to be involved due to the wetlands, and a written agreement will be needed with the property owner. Laurie and Diane to meet with the Town Manager to discuss further. This topic is also on the next agenda for the Joint Standing Committee that manages Knight’s Pond.
6. Open forum
   1. Karl noted that the Select Board has been discussing broadcasting and recording meetings. An amendment for this will be brought forward at Town Meeting, which could effect this Committee.
7. Next meeting - May 1, 2024
8. Adjournment at 7:01pm.