

North Yarmouth Parks Committee

Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Wescustogo Community Center

I. Call to Order 6:02pm.

Present: Bob Abbott, Marty Kremer, Laurie Gilman, Elise Kern

Karl Cyr (Select Board liaison)

Public: Peter Miller

II. Approval of Minutes: October minutes approved, vote was 4-0

III. Public Comment: none

IV. Old Business:

A. Village Center trail report

- a. No update from the Town Manager on timing, Committee is concerned about the lack of progress as this was intended to be completed in the fall.

B. Members sign the town remote policy

- a. Complete, Laurie to return the signed form to the town

C. Invasives control planning report

- a. No update. Invasive Plant Workshop by Cumberland Lands and Conservation Commission is coming up on 11/16, at Val Halla rec center

D. Implementing tree removal plan for North Field Chandler Brook next step – report

- a. All the trees for the 3 year removal plan have been flagged, Laurie and Bob to visit and add yellow markings for the trees to be removed this year, and follow up with the Town Manager on the timing for the removal.

- b. Additionally, Laurie to request that Town Manager asks Public Works to use the downed trees (or other wood) to create a more substantial barrier for the portion of the trail that has been discontinued.

E. Budgeting for 2024/25

- a. Committee is asked to provide any ideas for next year's budget, and associated cost estimates, to the Committee chairs.

F. Annual Report to Town

- a. Bob has started a draft of this report, covering the latest 2 years of activity. Bob will send this to the Committee in the next week.

G. Signs – professionally done replacements – report

- a. Committee reviewed draft signage imagery from Graphix. Laurie to assemble full listing of existing signs and return to the committee with recommendations for what to update.

H. Knight's Pond white trail boardwalk project – report

- a. Bob working with members of the Cumberland Trail Committee and RRCT on a project to restore a section of the White trail in NY. Tentatively hoping for a work date mid November.

I. Parks Reports Round table

- a. Bob noted that the most recent time he visited Eleanor Hayes forest, there were very substantial water-logged spots, and he recommends we consider adding some budget to remedy these spots next year.
- b. Committee discussed the need for written design standards to guide improvement and maintenance needs at each park. These would allow for clearer budgeting and location management plans that can be worked on by both Public Works and future volunteers.

V. New Business

- a. Access to route 231 from Town railroad bed trail – Lagasse deed
 - a. Committee discussed the existing deed held by the town that allows access to the railroad bed. It is agreed that the Town of North Yarmouth does indeed hold this land.
- b. Discussion – developing a project for each park by committee member monitoring it.
 - a. Each committee member to note visible issues in each park under their purview and annotate the location on a map (recommend to use the Royal River CC maps), to share back with the Committee.
- c. Volunteer trail work program for 2024
 - a. This can be undertaken once a set of standards and guidelines has been developed.

VI. Open forum

- A. Bob shared recent news that an easement will be put in place with Royal River Conservation at the second entrance to Old Town House (by the water) to formalize access on this trail
- B. Climate Action Plan Subcommittee: Elise reported back to the committee on the first meeting of 3 members with GPCOG (other members are from the EDSC and Waste Reduction Committees). Elise will send the Community Engagement Checklist to the committee for review, and report back each month with new developments and needs.

VIII. Adjournment 7:20pm

Minutes submitted by Elise Kern