

North Yarmouth Parks Committee

Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Wescustogo Community Center

Minutes

- I. Call to Order at 6:05pm. Present: Bob Abbott, Laurie Gilman, Elise Kern, Kelly Barnes, Marty Kremer. Karl Cyr (Select Board liaison)
- II. Approval of Minutes: December meeting minutes approved 5-0.
- III. Public Comment: none present
- IV. Old Business:
 - a. Village Center trail report
 - i. Karl reported that his conversations with the Town Manager indicated that the builder was still planning to create this trail but could not indicate a completion date.
 - ii. Karl to discuss the desire to have someone from the Town mark the property boundaries of this parcel so that the Committee can pursue creating a primitive trail as we await the formal trail to be created by the developer.
 - b. Implementing tree removal plan for north field Chandler Brook next step - report
 - i. Bob reported that Phase 1 has been completed, and complimented the Public Works team for their excellent work that had minimal impact on the surrounding landscape.
 - c. Budgeting for 2024/25
 - i. The committee discussed multiple areas of park maintenance and improvement for possible budget inclusion:
 1. Bridging in the Chandler Brook North Field where there is frequent standing water
 2. Bog bridging at Old Town House Park (up to 100 yards) in a variety of low spots
 3. Some kind of bridging for low spots in Eleanor Hayes that have standing water

4. Hiring a forester to examine Eleanor Hayes and determine way to handle invasive Glossy Buckthorn and provide a forest management plan
5. A platform for Knight's Pond viewing area (depending on consultant findings of feasibility)
6. Informational signage at Sam Ristich identifying plants and trees (Elise to follow up with Andrea & Wild Seed Project who have expressed interest in this area)
 - ii. Laurie and Bob to meet with Town Manager to discuss pricing estimates for all of these potential budget areas
 - iii. Karl to discuss the mechanics of the budget vs reserves with the Town Manager, so the Committee can better understand the implications on any unspent budgeted money this year, where work may not be feasible due to wet weather delays
- d. Snowmobile trail
 - i. Karl reported that per his conversation with the Town Manager, there are no current Town restrictions against allowing snowmobile access on town parks. Parks could make a recommendation to the Select Board for action.
 - ii. Committee motion to recommend the Select Board consider allowing a Snowmobile Club trail (with annual review) on specified Old Town House Park property with specific oversight on the following: marked trails, a specific length of season allowed, specific speed limits, a need to respect property, a need to be considerate of other members of the public using the trails for other purposes, hours of allowable use, placement and removal of the signage by the Club during allowed seasonal time frame. Motion passed 5-0.
- e. Trail stewards report on needs and costs for 2024
 - i. Reports submitted via email for Old Town House Park, Eleanor Hayes Town Forest, Knight's Pond, Sam Ristich Trail. Still pending: Chandler Brook and Wescustogo
- f. Parks Reports Round table
 - i. Bob reported that he is working on a list of the compiled history, by date, of the town parks.

V. New Business

- a. Spirit of America Award: Town has recommended that Parks and Royal River Conservation Trust receive this town award for 2023

for the trail work done at Knight's Pond. Bob recommended that the Cumberland Trail Committee also be included for their work on this bridge.

VI. Open forum

- a. Elise discussed the Climate Action Subcommittee Community Checklist and the need to gather information for that, the Committee agreed to review this (sent via email) and add any feedback.
- b. Karl discussed recent Select Board conversations about allowing recording/broadcasting of select Committee meetings. No decisions made at this point.

VII. Adjournment at 8:00pm