

## **North Yarmouth Parks Committee**

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Wescustogo Community Center

### **Minutes**

- I. Call to Order at 6:01pm. Present: Bob Abbott, Laurie Gilman, Elise Kern, Kelly Barnes

Karl Cyr (Select Board liaison)

Public: Mark Bradeen, Greg Merrill

- II. Approval of Minutes: November minutes approved 4-0

- III. Public Comment: Mark and Greg, representing Rocky Coast Riders (formerly Royal River Snowmobile Club), their goal is to increase connectivity within town on the snowmobile trails. Currently focusing on the trails around the Dunns Depot area, where a trail has been closed. The committee discussed with them the possibility of traveling through Old Town House Park as an alternative. Motion to indicate support for allowing the option, upon confirmation from the Town Manager that there is no condition in the ordinance that would not allow it, motion passed 4-0. The committee would (if approved) revisit this decision each year to ensure that this does not compromise the experience of other users of this park. Karl also agreed to discuss this situation with the Town Manager when he meets with her soon.

- IV. Old Business:

a. Village Center trail report

- i. No action to date. Conversations indicate that this is not contractually required to be completed until the developer completes Phase 2 of the housing development. Karl to follow-up with the Town Manager to understand when that is meant to happen.

b. Implementing tree removal plan for north field Chandler Brook

- i. Laurie & Bob walked this area and tagged the designated trees, and shared the information with Public Works and they are ready to proceed. The timing of the cutting is weather dependent, as the equipment needs dry conditions to properly access the area.

c. Budgeting for 2024/25

- i. For next meeting, consider the problem areas identified in each park (see Follow-Up note below) to understand any budget implications to plan for. Draft budgets are to be submitted in February.

d. Signs – professionally done replacements

- i. Laurie shared an image inventory of the various signs present at all our parks. The committee discussed the desire to create consistency at each of the kiosks and consistency of the rules and guideline signage provided.
- ii. Hunting signs – town to provide permanent year-round signs to replace existing temporary signs
- iii. “unattended public park – use at your own risk” – Laurie to check with town whether this is still needed.
- iv. Placement of plexiglass on each kiosk – committee agrees that this would be valuable
- v. Replacement of the large Wescustogo sign with a new small kiosk is recommended
- vi. Laurie to bring a complete recommendation to the committee next meeting.

e. Knight’s Pond white trail boardwalk project

- i. Bob reported that this work was completed over two working sessions. A special thank you to Cumberland Trail Committee and the Royal River Conservation Trust for their work on this project.

- f. Knight's Pond - hire Consultant for project to place platform and benches on the edge of pond on the NY side
  - i. Bob reported that he has been advised that DEP approval is required for placement at this location. He recommends that we hire Sevee and Maher to advise on this issue. Motion to hire them to consult on this project using existed budgeted funds passed 4-0.
- g. Parks Reports Round table
  - i. **FOLLOW-UP:** for next meeting, each Committee members to bring in annotated list of areas that need fixing in their respective assigned parks. Print out the RRCT map, and note on the map where the issue is, along with a picture. This is necessary to determine whether to allocate funds for individual park efforts in next year's budget, and to direct Public Works to complete specific maintenance tasks.

## V. New Business

- a. NY Open Space committee
  - i. Karl discussed a recent announcement at the Select Board to create a new ad hoc committee to identify spaces in the town to preserve, and think cross functionally and creatively to preserve these spaces. This committee will be 7 people. The Parks committee expressed interest in having a presence on this committee.
- b. Baston Park consultant report
  - i. \$1500 allocation request for topological survey, which Bob delivered to the committee via email. This expense will hit this year's budget. This would provide necessary information as a precursor to any dredging work in the future. Motion to allocate \$1500 for this survey report passed 4-0.
- c. Dog poop bags
  - i. Committee agreed to reinstate these into next year's budget

d. Snowmobile trails – discussed during the Public Comment

VI. Open forum

a. Elise provided an Environmental Action Subcommittee update, and will send a document seeking local information to the committee for their input in completing it.

VII. Adjournment at 7:54pm