

**North Yarmouth Parks & Recreation Committee**

**July 13, 2020, WHACC**

**Present:** Bryan Emerson (chair), Scott Kerr, Bob Abbott, Anne Lang

**Guest:** Rosemary Roy, town manager

Meeting preceded by visit to Town Forest

- I. Call to order 7:07 pm
- II. Review of last minutes from February – no minutes yet
- III. Rosemary
  - a. Committee make-up
    - i. Shelly Harkins has left the committee
    - ii. Rosemary has an extra applicant and will send to us
      - 1. Bryan will reach out to her re: next meeting
  - b. Special Town Ordinance Meeting
    - i. Aiming for Sept/Oct to specifically to address Animal Control and finalize all parks ordinance language
  - c. Great American Outdoors Act
    - i. \$9M in federal monies available
    - ii. May be worth looking into to address larger parks projects
  - d. Park Complaints
    - i. **Chandler Brook**
      - 1. Broken glass found there
        - a. Clark & crew cleaned it up
      - 2. Stuff growing in hay deems it unusable
        - a. Will use this info to inform our parks mgmt. plan
    - ii. Old Town House Park
      - 1. Boardwalk has not yet been removed
        - a. David Price (father of Eagle Scout who conducted this project) said he'd provide an estimate of what it would take to fix this, but has not yet provided this info
          - i. Rosemary to email David that we will remove it due to liability, as all parks are use at your own risk
        - b. Best time to remove it would be winter
          - i. Need to adjust town webpage pictures that have the boardwalk in them
- IV. Invasives
  - a. Eric coordinated pickup of brush with Clark
  - b. Mapping of invasives in all parcels (except Knight's Pond) has been completed to inform management plan prioritization
- V. Knight's Pond
  - a. There are issues with the informal loop trail
    - i. Last piece is still privately owned, however, people have been using it (informal bridges over streams)

1. Once the property is acquired, a contractor can check out the connection
  - b. Cumberland wants to keep Knight's Pond trail system as is "rural trails" (per map from Cumberland Rec Trails committee)
    - i. Regarding fire/rescue accessibility, they are considering cutting and cleaning before an emergency
      1. Both towns' fire chiefs are going to scout it out and report to Joint Standing Committee
      2. Standard trail width is supposed to be 5', but Chief would like to see certain areas 7'
- VI. Signs
- a. Rosemary is paying for park signs out of reserves account
  - b. Once the tobacco ordinance language passes, we will get free signage from the Cumberland Public Health District for the parks
    - i. Rosemary will send final language to us for review
- VII. Dogs in parks
- i. Concern raised by Steve Palmer re: dogs not being leashed in parks
    - i.1. Committee discussed having an entirely leash-free park at the Town Forest
    - 1.2. Would need signs, cleared out parking area, and removal of brush, potential move of monument
      - a. Rosemary to address these concerns and potential changes to Clark
        - i. Need confirmation of the property line with Yarmouth Water District
    - 2.3. Require dogs be on leash all the time at all other parks. Include increased signage & remove "voice control" from other parks language
      - a. Rosemary to run these changes by Bobby, ACO
- VIII. Kite Festival
- a. Proposal by Steve Palmer to have it at Chandler Brook instead of Old Town House Park because of better winds
    - i. Event is currently pending anyway
    - ii. Parking is not as good – vehicles would have to go over RR tracks and up to the hayfield
    - iii. Committee is not feeling good about this
- IX. Old Town House Parks
- a. Dead trees @ OTHP
    - i. Rosemary and Clark to check these out
      1. Town has a chipper now
- X. Management Plan for Parks
- a. Ben Smith is a local option to assist with this
  - b. Committee/Town to invite potential people to meetings and interview
- XI. Metal Detectors
- a. Reports of people using them in the parks
    - i. They are digging holes and leaving them

1. Is there language in the ordinance about defacement like this?
2. Perhaps add language that requires them to ask permission or return the park the way they found it

XII. Baston Park

- a. Engineering happening with Royal River Conservation Trust funds

XIII. Next meeting

- a. August 5<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm
- b. Rosemary to ask Clark if he can come