

Minutes

Living Well in North Yarmouth

October 21, 2020

ZOOM meeting 7:00 PM

- I. Call to Order - attending Jay Fulton, Peter Lindsay, Donna Palmer, Steve Palmer, Vanessa Farr, Ginny Vandyke, Peg Leonard, Al Ahler, Gay Peterson
- II. Minutes Approval - approved.
- III. Old Business - Vanessa spoke to the traffic calming points. They can stay up until snow, date uncertain. Will be put up again in the spring. Vanessa reminds us that they stay until 'friction' gets built out. Ongoing discussions with Clark about testing how far to tighten up the turning radii at paces like the Purple House intersection. Storm water filtration and catch basins and curbing, plantings and bioswales will be included in the design. The current survey will close out on Friday the 23rd... Some of the comments caused Jim to feel dismayed. Al discussed Chris Dillman had some experience with stormwater at ON Semiconductor. Steve asked about speed measurements after the bollards come down. Vanessa says no open forum, only committed to get data and analyze. Vanessa is getting some direct feedback, even texts. Peter mentioned that the speed problem is more than just the center of town. They're aware and getting comments also. Vanessa is not working on additional areas at this time. TIF money is used to support the changes. Steve wanted to know how much time and effort goes into maintaining the bollards? Not tracked. Vanessa mentions the 10'6" lane measurements. Lack of respect for workers puts them in danger. Steve asked Vanessa how we can be effective committee members. Right now the biggest piece is about a cultural shift. Vanessa mentioned Quality of Life (QOL) concept, the ability to have children safely navigate to the NY variety store. As we move towards budgeting, we should try to keep the QOL message out front. Vanessa mentions "home zone", a concept for town-wide messaging. Separate point: We're asking DOT to remove the passing lane through the center of town. Kite paraphernalia should come down on 10/31; don't wait for a snowfall.

Ginny asked about doing some little courtesy for the DPW workers? Maybe lunch? Pastries. No objections. To be continued.

- IV. 1. Recreation Area update – Ginny and Jay
Ginny to give an update. Jay missed the meeting. Apologized. Ginny reports that Rosemary is SUPER supportive of the idea; she will launch the idea on the selectman's board. We will do a survey as a starter. Size? Amenities? Style? Scope? Rosemary mentioned that multiple locations village green ice skating, 3 locations. Who is the target audience? pre-school, toddlers, school kids up to <8th grade. Lots of information out there on the web. Homemade? Commercial? Playground first, then expand to other sports. Talk to Royal River Trust about skating rink at Knights pond, Old Town House Park. We discussed town money, grant writing, Money up front is helpful for grants.

Peter ? is TIF money available for this. Rosemary didn't seem concerned about the money required. Donna says the selectmen seemed to be supportive of the idea also. Al mentioned a playground is a worthwhile endeavor; his relatives end up driving grandchildren to a Yarmouth playground . The community center location seemed good to Al. Al commented there's a nice pond at Baston Park. Handicap accessible must be part of the plan for any playground design.

Donna pointed out that AARP had matched some money for Knox boxes for emergency via a Challenge Grant. Money upfront adds credibility to a grant application. Donna mentioned Rob Wood, would agree to help us write a grant application as needed.

Peter asked about action steps for a survey? We would **start it** and run the survey questions by Rosemary. Peg mentioned that there are dozens of Surveys out there on the web for review. Donna said that there was a teacher that passed away, and there could be another fundraising resource from that situation.

Steve asked for three members to collect information and document possible sources: Ginny Donna Peg. Peg asked who is the survey target? Parents? Everyone? Ginny thinks everybody. There might be help from Ann of Parks & Recreation.

2. Traffic calming: signage, kite removal - Steve mentioned that some of the kites are fallen or ragged. Just pick them up, bring them to Steve's or keep safe for a later retrieval. All elements to be retrieved on the 31st.

3. Vanessa Farr update above.

4. Advocacy letter to DOT - Steve/Donna wrote a letter to the DOT, the advocacy letter. He wants to formalize it by putting it on Town stationery. Al wants to see a copy of the letter; Steve will resend it to him. Donna asked if the survey could/should also have questions about the dog park.

5. Other testimonials? Steve thinks that only testimonials from the residents of Walnut Hill are relevant. Ginny knows a neighbor that might contribute a testimonial. Kathy Whittier might help. Krista Desjarlais was mentioned.

Tomorrow 10/22 Al and Steve will meet the crew that will do sampling at Baston Park. The DEP needs to see those results. Rosemary has come up with \$6000 to help with the dredging.

6. Dog park advocacy- not discussed

V. New Business

1. Grants for Baston Park - Donna

VI. Any Other Business - Round Robin. A couple of new residents got the welcome bags. Peg knows somebody who just moved in. Everyone, please keep up the awareness of welcome packs for new residents. Donna mentioned Meadowbrook opposite the Fire Station may be a good target.

Maybe we can create a new batch of bags with a letter of explanation and greeting. Gay mentioned creating the communication and still has some cards on hand. Gay will work to get bags prepared for early Nov.

Ginny asked if LWNy may wish to adopt a park? Other ideas of hers: at Chandler Brook Park there is an unused area that could be planted for butterflies and tagging plants with common and scientific names might enhance the park experience.

Al said Donna and Al are working on a letter to go to companies with big trucks passing through town. The letter is asking owners to remind drivers to adhere to the posted speed limits.

Shall we zoom for the November meeting? Yes.

VII. Adjournment at 8:15 PM

Next Zoom Meeting Nov 18 at 7PM