

North Yarmouth Parks & Rec

September 4, 2019

7 pm, Town Office

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

Guest: Bill Whitten, select board

- I. Welcome Bill
 - a. Bill came to learn what is going on and to improve communication
 - b. Town Committees are invited to a sharing event 9.17 @ 5:30 at the Town Office
 - i. All committees will have the opportunity to update the Select Board
 - ii. Please add Bill to our finalized minutes
- II. Baston Park
 - a. Clark to mow back honeysuckle area & open it up
 - b. Bob used an altimeter at the edge of the pond and at the boat launch and they were roughly the same reading
 1. Connecting the pond to the river may prove to be only seasonal, very expensive, and mucky
 - a. Other opportunity is to add a boat launch at Baston
 - i. Need more info (pricing, prioritization) before moving forward
- III. Connecting the pond to the river is not a priority for us
 - a. If Steve Palmer wants to continue to investigate it, that's fine, but we just want to be kept in the loop and we would want to approve anything big that happens there (and maybe the select board too).
- IV. Knight's Pond
 - a. Priorities are to connect a right of way to the NY side and complete a loop trail all the way around
 - i. Ties into town priorities of more viable, walkable downtown
 - b. Donation of Smith property on hold
 - i. Bryan to reach out to Rosemary (and copy Bill) re: status so we can get a contractor in
 1. Will bring to Rosemary & Select Board for approval
 - a. Bill and Rosemary meet on Mondays before the Select Board meetings
- V. Invasive Species Control
 - a. Old Town House Park
 - i. Bryan did an inventory on what a licensed applicator would need to do
 1. Organize a work day to make the most of the time with an applicator
 - a. Maybe in advance to Kite Day on 10.5?
 - i. Would be quick turnaround for contractor
 - ii. Anne to reach out to Boy Scouts re: availability for work day/projects

- iii. Bryan to seek out other licensed applicators
 - iv. Tentative work day 10.19
- VI. Town Forest
 - a. Paul L'Arrivee met with a state entomologist in big Hayes forest
 - i. Trees have spruce budworm and are not in good shape
 - 1. Forest will need another cut – maybe another cut & chip on site before winter
 - ii. Paul to send a summary report to sum up what he found here at @ OTHP
 - 1. Paul's info on front hill conifers
 - a. Trees in bad shape – no wildlife value
 - b. Would make for a sledding hill/better wind for kites
 - i. If any opposition, bring to Select Board
 - iii. Next steps: wait for Paul's report & decide if we want to clear the OTHP hill
- VII. Kite Festival 10.5
 - a. Steve reached out to see if anyone from our committee can help with parking 10:30-1 pm
 - i. Anne is out of town
 - ii. Bryan will check schedule
 - iii. Bob also to check
- VIII. Royal River Conservation Trust/Chandler Brook
 - a. Alan Stearns passed on a concerned email re: CB being mowed during monarch butterfly season
 - i. No formal management plan for CB
 - 1. Clarks already holds off mowing until mid-July for bobolinks
 - ii. What is priority?
 - b. Parks & Rec to put together a CB master plan and bring to Select Board
 - i. Bryan has a plan template we can use
 - c. Railroad line across CB isn't in use
 - i. Opportunity for rail trail?
- IX. Uniting Parks & Rec, Living Well, Events?
 - a. Opportunity to reduce committees and improve communication

Next meeting: Wednesday, 10.2, 7 pm