

North Yarmouth Parks & Recreation Committee
December 2, 2020, 6:30 pm via Zoom

Present: Steve Palmer, Anne Lang, Bob Abbott (chair), Ted Danforth, Scott Kerr

Guests: Rosemary Roy, town manager; Brian Sites, Select Board

I. Call to order

- A. Chair Abbott brought the meeting to order at 6:34 pm

II. Minutes Approval

- A. September minutes were resent as per last meeting
 - 1. Anne motions to accept as submitted, Scott 2nds, all in favor
- B. November minutes
 - 1. Steve motions to accept as submitted, Bob 2nds, all in favor

III. Budget

- A. Overview - Rosemary
 - 1. Select Board has agreed to put back \$5,000 in reserves for next year, due to this year's funds being wiped out by COVID
 - a) Money could be used for Town Forest trail kiosk, trail wood chips, invasives management
 - 2. FY 22-25 **reserve** budget developed by former chair Bryan Emerson
 - 3. This fiscal year's P&R expenditures are not reflected on the budget sheet
 - a) Baston Park expenditures to be reimbursed by RRCT grant
 - 4. Rosemary will be meeting with the Budget Committee this month and then will review in February
 - 5. Future Lands fund will get \$10,000 back after getting pulled this year
 - 6. Town Appropriation (line item budget) was stripped this year, so all we have are reserves
 - 7. All Public Works work is in their budget, not ours
 - 8. Signs for parks will include no fireworks language
 - 9. Both Future Lands and reserves may be used for land acquisition
- B. Invasives Management and Maintenance
 - 1. No more line item money for this year, but \$4,000 approved for next year
 - a) Increase general maintenance funds
 - b) Add \$10,000 annually to reserves to address invasives
 - c) Rosemary ®
 - d) to request big picture proposal from Basswood Enviro from Erik, rather than a park by park report
- C. Grant match monies
 - 1. Residents can vote on up to \$25,000 in town grant match money from town's undesignated funds
 - a) Necessitates a Select Board warrant article
 - 2. Timeline of handicap accessible boat ramp at Baston to inform grant match

D. Rosemary to prioritize/clean up reserves list and will send to us

IV. Ordinances

A. Need to determine which parks will require dogs to be leashed vs. off leash/voice command

1. This will inform both the general Parks Ordinance and the Animal Control Ordinance

B. The changes have already had a first hearing

C. Scott motions that OTHP, Chandler Brook and Baston Parks require dogs to be leashed at all times

1. Anne seconds, all in favor

D. May need signs to determine best river points of access (boat launches, other designated areas) to reduce erosion

V. Chandler Brook

A. North Field

1. Scott motions to pass the previously submitted via email motion regarding the Chandler Brook North Field, which reads as follows, "The North Field is to be reserved as a wildlife habitat. The field is to be mowed once per year, preferably in late October. The late mowing will allow the field to remain an open field helping to minimize successive growth of pine, gray birch, alder and invasive species such as multiflora rose, bittersweet and honeysuckle. It will also encourage seed maturation of plants as a food source for birds and other fauna."

a) Steve seconds, all in favor

2. Steve is willing to get milkweed seeds and/or landscape sized plugs for that field for a future family seeding event for monarchs

B. Other field

1. Ken Norman is the person who hays the fields at OTHP, Westcustogo, and Chandler Brook who has relayed that the hay quality is poor

a) He is willing to lime the fields if he can get a 5 year haying contract with the town

b) He is also hoping to be able to get 2 cuts per season out of the fields

(1) Currently, the 1st cutting happens too late due to bobolink habitats, and the resulting weeds and other undesirable plants seed into the hayfield

(a) 1st cut would be better late(last week in June to make it more precise) June and 2nd cut at season end for better hay quality

(2) Steve routinely walked CB this summer, and saw no bobolinks

c) Steve motions that we let Ken lime the fields at OTHP, CB, and Westcustogo and cut twice annually for 5 years, excluding the CB North field

(1) Anne seconds, all in favor

- d) Ken to create a contract citing this language, and send to Rosemary

VI. Sam Ristich Trail

- A. Maine Trails Coalition out of Bath sponsored an Ugly Duckling trail contest
- B. Winner gets a 6 person Maine Conservation Corps team to come clean up a trail
 - 1. Steve submitted the application for Sam Ristich, due to need for trail and stair cleanup
 - a) Reply forthcoming
- C. Steve and Public Works picked up a bunch of trash on the trails
- D. Outreach to Paul and Chrissy at end of Sligo Rd Ext so people can have access to the lower end of the trail

VII. Connectivity

- A. Alan of RRCT has offered a mapping workshop to our committee and other interested parties (snowmobilers, Bicycle Coalition, etc)

VIII. Round Robin

- A. SCott (C) talked to Wayne Wood (surveyor) regarding the Town Forest and its sketchy boundaries
 - 1. For \$750, he can complete a formal survey resulting in print and electronic map files
 - 2. SCott motions for the committee to employ his services and use line item funds to pay for the TF survey
 - a) Bob seconds, all in favor
- B. Plowing @ Westcustogo & TF
 - 1. Westcustogo usually closed in winter
 - a) Clark will plow between the closed gate and Rt 231
 - (1) Rosemary to discuss with Clark and relay back
 - 2. Town Forest
 - a) Steve feels the ask of Public Works is too high as it is
 - b) Scott motions to ask Clark to plow the new lot @ TF at his convenience
 - (1) Rosemary says this does not have to be a formal motion, and she can discuss with Clark
- C. Rosemary formally thanks Scott for finding a typo in the Legasse deed

IX. Next meeting

- A. Parks & Rec, Wednesday, January 6th, 2021 via Zoom @ 6:30 pm
- B. The budget will be discussed on Tuesday, January 5th via Zoom @ 6 pm by the Select Board
 - 1. P&R members will be invited to attend