

Town of North Yarmouth
Parks and Recreation Committee
Meeting Agenda
September 9, 2020

Wescustogo Hall and Community Center, Community Room, 7:00pm

Members Present: Bryan Emerson (chair), Scott Kerr, Bob Abbott, Steve Palmer, Anne Lang

Guests: Rosemary Roy, town manager; Austin Harrell, Select Board; Clark Baston, Public Works; Alan Stearns, Royal River Conservation Trust; Chip XXX?, Public Works; Rob Wood, community member;

I. Call to Order

A. 7:02 pm

II. Minutes Approval

A. Bob moves to accept as presented

B. Anne seconds

C. Unanimous motion

III. Parks and Recreation Business

A. Special Town Meeting

i. Will occur 10/3

ii. Will not address ordinance language changes

1. These will fall to potentially another special meeting or to the regular town meeting in April, as COVID has derailed attention to many other topics

a. Rosemary still searching for metal detector language

b. Westcustogo Park may not be able to be an off-leash park due to the bobolink population

B. Trail map in comprehensive plan

i. Needs to be built on

ii. Rosemary is proposing a committee workshop to focus on connectivity

1. Alan to send his RRCT map before the October meeting

2. Rosemary wants to discuss parcels on Rt 231 adjacent to Westcustogo Park with RRCT and Vanessa Farr

C. Stump issues at Chandler Brook

i. A trail user tripped and fell

D. Knight's Pond

- i. The original gifted property to complete the loop trail is under new ownership, but is still expected to allow for loop trail completion
- ii. A 9-acre parcel owned by RRCT could potentially become town land via monies from town future lands reserve account and/or Parks and Rec reserves
 - 1. This will come before the Select Board
 - 2. Site visit on new subdivision re: access to Knight's Pond at end of road (parking and trailhead)
 - 3. Committee is supportive of the consolidation of lands by town
 - a. Fine print will fall to the Select Board and Planning Board
 - i. Town will have to vote on this
 - ii. Will have to be incorporated into management plan
 - iii. Joint standing committee will manage this for now, but may change, as they don't meet often
 - 1. Bob to attend JSC meetings as our rep
 - iv. Steps needed
 - 1. RRCT to sell 9 acres with trail easement
 - 2. Grover subdivision needs to clear this with Phase I residents and Planning Board/Select Board/Town Meeting decision
 - a. Could be in front of the Planning Board as early as October (with likely approval)
 - b. Everything else beyond the initial step will likely be in front of April Town Meeting
 - v. Select Board is leaning heavily towards connectivity (setting goals @ 9/15 meeting)
 - vi. Vote to say the committee is supportive of Ben Grover's connection to KP from the Village Ctr
 - 1. Scott motions, Steve 2nds, unanimous support
 - vii. Current fiscal year removed the reserves due to COVID but there is an anticipated rebound at end of FY with excise taxes, etc.

E. Town Forest

- i. Bob, Bryan, and Clark met there to review next steps
 - 1. Clark can build a parking lot by clearing buckthorn
 - 2. Minor maintenance to snowmobile trail and widening will make a walk/bike trail
 - 3. Review of site, perhaps with Greater Portland New England Mtn Bike Association (NEMBA), to see what other trails can be put down
 - a. Can we extend out onto Water District land?

- i. Currently “use at your own risk”
 - ii. Would need a formal agreement with the Water District
 - 1. Likelihood is dependent on us approaching with a clear, known goal
 - iii. Snowmobile trail already exists to Sweetser Rd
- 4. Loop trail next steps
 - a. P&R can give regular updates to the Select Board (maybe quarterly?)
 - b. Reach out to NEMBA via Jim Tasse re: layout of trail
 - c. Skidder trails may be enough
 - d. Will the forest be left unmanaged to focus on trails?
 - i. No, it will have its own management plan
 - e. Bryan to plan site walk
 - f. Alan suggests reaching out to Pam Ames @ Skyline Farms re: equestrian use of trails

F. Baston Park Update

- i. Steve & Al Ahlers wrote a letter to the Dept of Conservation(?)
 - 1. No dioxin or PCB testing needed (cheaper)
 - 2. Dredging process can proceed with Sevee and Maher to do soil sample, which will inform NERPA application
 - 3. Revised time schedule is approximately based on NERPA application, probably dredging to begin in about a year
 - 4. Army Corps of Engineers wants nothing to do with it, as it is not ocean-based
- ii. Honeysuckle has been removed
 - 1. Maybe wood chips to cover it

G. Sam Ristich/Railroad Bed Cleanup

- i. Prompted by committee and a resident concern
- ii. Cleanup of debris along trail (not in ravine)
 - 1. Clark can bring in a chipper to clear out natural debris/logs
 - a. Public Works can get big equipment in if volunteers clear the trail
 - i. A volunteer clean up day is okay, if masks and social distancing
 - 1. Determine a date and send to Rosemary
 - b. Access can be obtained at end of Sligo Rd Ext with permission of landowner or through Hibbard’s (sp?)
 - i. Clark to negotiate an entrance and P&R to share a date with him for clean up day

H. Management Plan

- i. Bob drafted one for Chandler Brook
 - 1. To be shared with Ben Smith & the committee

- ii. Idea is to review one park's and then get into other parks with relevant parties
 - 1. Ben Smith offered to chat with Bryan
- iii. Involve a consultant for public process
- iv. Once the plan is presented to the Select Board, P&R owns it

I. Invasives

- i. Bryan sent maps from Basswood Environmental to committee
 - 1. To be brought before the Select Board
 - 2. Eric Lima (of Basswood) will be able to come to our November meeting re: survey results and invasives management
 - a. Worth sharing with adjacent landowners (via RRCT?) to maintain continuity

J. Round Robin

- i. Steve et al walk local trails
 - 1. Wet areas at Old Town House Park in spring
 - a. May be worth salvaging the boardwalk that was uprooted for small bridges
 - i. Steve to direct Clark on where to put them
 - ii. Will this just relocated boardwalk problems elsewhere?
 - 1. We will see what happens
- ii. Volunteers
 - 1. Suggestion to have a trail/park/volunteer steward to coordinate workdays and volunteers
 - a. RRCT can advise on this especially re: local businesses with paid hours for staff to do this
 - i. Steve to pursue with Alan

K. Next meeting date

- i. Wednesday, October 7th @ 7 pm at the Westcustogo Hall & Community Center