

**Town of North Yarmouth**  
**Parks and Recreation Committee**  
**October 7, 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; Alan Stearns, Royal River Conservation Trust

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**I. Call to Order**

**A. 7:03 pm**

**II. Minutes Approval**

**A.** All edits need to be submitted to the Google Doc

**B.** Bryan to add his and we can vote by email

**III. Parks and Recreation Old Business**

**A.** Giant trail map still needs to be created

**i.** Rosemary's maps from the Sept meeting are from the 2018 town comprehensive plan

**1.** Committee to review these

**B.** Community change grant for \$1500 from America Walks

**i.** Ideas include

**1.** Knight's Pond connector trail

**2.** Sam Ristich trail

**3.** Town Forest trail connections

**ii.** Has a social justice bent to it

**1.** Partner with Living Well

**iii.** Funds must be spent in 2021

**1.** Potentially use P&R FY budget as match?

**C.** Select Board starting budget process in Nov (reserves)/Dec (regular)

**i.** Rosemary to send us what we have re: CIP

**1.** Ask for what we want to rebuild the reserves

**D.** Baston Park

**i.** \$6,000 of reserves funding to go towards dredging

**E.** Town Forest

**i.** Steve went on Monday

**1.** Walking path is rough

**a.** Clark will need help/guidance on next steps of 5-6 car parking area

- ii. Need for a management plan
    - 1. Each park will have their own
      - a. Impact on P&R budget
  - iii. Need to scout out possible trail routes once leaves come down
    - 1. Snowmobile trail was mowed, but lots of buckthorn
      - a. Clark to grind buckthorn and grade path if resources allow
        - i. Will require regular maintenance in future
    - 2. There is a ridge about 100' in where we could add a loop trail
  - iv. Potential for clearing forest back from Rt 9 to reduce ice on road in winter
  - v. Cutting of forest
    - 1. Some obvious places to walk are where people have run skidders
      - a. Potential for mud here when not frozen (and inability to bring equipment in)
    - 2. Plans for logging to return
      - a. Forestry plan – how to mesh with trail plan?
        - i. Forestry plan usually every 10-15 years
        - ii. We still need to clear out the dead stuff/things that aren't growing/potential blowovers (high water table, clay soil)
      - b. Scott to reach out to Todd and Paul L'Arrivee to check it out – may not be cold enough to get equipment in
    - 3. Worth doing the trail before cuts are made
    - 4. Next steps – Parks and Rec to visit forest with Clark to map things out
    - 5. Snowmobile trail needs to be moved – cuts through parking lot
      - a. Statement to Public Works that we would like the lot open in winter
        - i. Will be available to snowmobile trailers
          - 1. We can address any issues of motorized vs. non-motorized use
          - 2. Outreach to snowmobile clubs re: trail development & use
          - 3. Where are snowmobile trails getting shunted to with new development between Town Forest and Toddy Brook?
          - 4. Jennifer Robbins (abutter) is on board and wants to be a part
            - a. Scott will reach out to her
    - vi. Next steps – schedule a site walk
- F. Chandler Brook Management Plan
  - i. In Dropbox and close to being finished
    - 1. Annual report is a combination of RRCT report and town

- a. Conservation easement monitoring by RRCT – they notify us of violations
  - i. Recommendation from RRCT is to have a plan that addresses major concerns
    - 1. Haying/mowing
    - 2. Milkweed
    - 3. Minor recreational structures
- 2. Management plans are living documents and can be amended as needed
- 3. Future “north trail” map at Chandler Brook is 17 years old
  - a. Put new trails in plan so RRCT can’t veot it
- 4. Serious erosion/degradation from human access to stream @ ladder area – around 6”/yr
  - a. Next steps
    - i. Steve to remove ladder

**G. Sam Ristich/RR Bed Cleanup**

- i. Bob rewalked the trail and all the junk that stood out was down in the ravine, where Clark indicated he wouldn’t be able to get equipment down to
  - 1. 2-3 piles of junk are accessible to remove
    - a. Clark can get a truck in & does not warrant a work day
  - 2. There is a really nice pond at the end of the RR bed – would need a bridge to connect
  - 3. Steps @ end of Sam Ristich need shoring up/replacing

**H. Recreational Connectivity**

- i. Bryan to nudge Rosemary about workshopping a map re: connectivity with her, Clark, Alan, Vanessa, and P&R to determine top priorities
  - 1. We need to know target properties re: future easements/acquisitions/budget
    - a. Alan willing to detail his top 10 with potential barriers and opportunities with corresponding maps
- ii. P&R to recommend property management plan and assignment to a town staff member
- iii. Steve recommends that Alan & P&R share map and priority making before November mtng

**I. Next meeting**

- i. 11/4 doesn’t work for everyone
- ii. 11/11 is Veteran’s Day
  - 1. 11/12 next mtng @ 7 pm

**J. Adjournment 9:18 pm**