

North Yarmouth Parks & Recreation Committee
February 4, 2021, 6:30 pm via Zoom

Present: Bob Abbott, Chair; Ted Danforth; Steve Palmer; Scott Kerr; Anne Lang

Guests: Rosemary Roy, Town Manager; Alan Stearns, Royal River Conservation Trust; Diane Morrison, Economic Development and Sustainability Committee; Austin Harrell, Select Board

I. Call to order: 6:34 pm

II. Approval of January minutes

- A. Anne moves to accept the minutes as submitted
- B. Steve seconds
- C. All in favor

III. New business

- A. Economic development & sustainability committee member Diane Morrison and Rosemary Roy to present on TIF (tax increment financing) funding
 - 1. One of the 11 TIF priorities for the ED&S committee is village area recreation and trail improvements
 - a) Priority areas are
 - (1) Connection through Rt 231 Legasse property
 - (2) Knight's Pond
 - (3) Connection over ravine behind fire house
 - (4) Ice skating rink(s)/trails
 - (5) Railroad bed connection
 - (a) The only way to the RR bed is via Sam Ristich trails, but we don't own out to Rt 9
 - (i) Abutters are not supportive
 - 2. TIF window is 20 years to spend
 - 3. TIF budget is currently \$265,000, and may eventually build up to \$4M
 - a) Money is not currently budgeted out for priorities, but could be used for legal work/easement on Legasse property
 - 4. Alan believes that TIF money can also be used town-wide, since trails are typically outside the central village district
 - a) Alan willing to pull together a connectivity group and appreciates this prioritization of the trails
 - (1) He asks if the ED&S committee can set a realistic goal on where the trails fit within the other 10 priorities of the TIF
 - (2) Rosemary will send us TIF maps and will earmark some TIF money for trails per the TIF statute
- B. Recording documents for NYPR - Rosemary
 - 1. There is an existing box of documents that has been given to Bob
 - a) He is going through it and will return to Rosemary/Draven to create a digital archive

(1) Rosemary is also keeping existing paper copies in addition to the digital files

C. Community Forest Project Grants - Scott

1. Route 9 Town Forest for \$100K grant

- a) Bob & Scott did a walkthrough and observed thin soils that won't support trails for bikes/horses
- b) Clark is researching a manure spreader that can also spread trail chips

(1) Primitive trails potential covered by Scott & Bob

IV. Old Business

A. YWD Sand Pit off Sweester Rd - Anne

1. Potential for pump track given the sandy conditions

- a) Anne willing to reach out to Gorham to see how they pursued the public/private partnership
- b) Additional sand pit is canyon-like and could be good for easy trails/horses

(1) Role of neighbors

(a) Role of YWD is supportive of us talking, but they still need to finalize with Cumberland

B. Milkweed Project - Ted

1. Goal is to repopulate part of Chandler Brook with milkweed

- a) Ted working with Monarch Partnership of Wisconsin for guidance
- b) Tentative date of May 1st/2nd to have community planting project for the 350+ plugs Steve has ordered

(1) Potential for many tracking/count projects to involve the community

C. Birdhouse project - Ted

- 1. Could be in conjunction with milkweed project
- 2. Continuation of several years ago to populate the parks with birdhouses

D. Trail monitoring project

- 1. Keep it online
 - a) May preclude people from participating, but will be compatible for cell phone usage

E. Living Well Recreation survey

- 1. Over 500 replies total
- 2. Over 100 have indicated interest in volunteering
- 3. Final report & summary will go to Rosemary and the Select Board first, and then will be passed down to other town committees

F. Chandler Brook North Field trail

- 1. Bob and Scott walked the North field towards the abutter and it was doable, but will need mowing when it dries out
- 2. Perimeter trail around the field will keep the ticks in check and support accessibility

G. Deeds and maps for Baston/Sam Ristich

1. Next steps for these?
2. Does town have any records re: Mrs. Legasse's back taxes/agreements?
 - a) Existing documents are not clear
 - (1) Some talk about going to the railroad, others along the railroad with the assumption that the railroad is an abandoned road
3. Accumulation of info can be fairly accurate for Wayne Wood to complete a paper survey
 - a) Budget accounts for his work re: existing documents, but not a physical survey
 - b) Legasse driveway may raise DOT concerns regarding a dip that would impact recreational trail parking
 - (1) Alan can bring this up with DOT upon request to get ahead of it
 - (a) Wayne can inform a driveway relocation before DOT gets out there

H. Round robin

1. Steve is concerned about the summary of the animal control ordinance public hearing before the BOS
 - a) He anticipates pushback from dog owners between now and the town meeting in April that could keep it from being passed
 - b) It has currently been heard with no proposed amendments with another public hearing during the 2nd March BOS meeting
 - c) Both the Animal Control ordinance and the Parks ordinance will be going to the town meeting in April as is and will not be subject to amendments on the floor
 - (1) It will be a simple Y/N vote by the people
2. State Bureau of Parks - Alan
 - a) They are developing a plan surrounding Pineland
 - (1) There are no unique discussions to the small parcel of Pineland in NY, but we can let him know if we would like to be interested parties to receive ongoing info