North Yarmouth Parks & Rec Committee Meeting

October 18, 2017

7 pm, NYMS

In attendance: Ken Filliter (chair), Scott Kerr, Jim Faunce, Anne Lang

Guests: Alan Stearns, Royal River Conservation Trust; Rosemary Roy, Town Manager; Clark Baston,

Public Works

1. Minutes
   1. Scott moves to accept last month’s minutes
   2. Jim seconds
   3. Unanimous approval
2. Boy Scouts Community Service opportunities
   1. Scouts approached Ken re: service projects
      1. Multiple Eagle Scouts
         1. Chandler Brook brook trail
         2. Clean up knotweed at OTHP
         3. Town forest (trailmaking?)
3. OTHP update
   1. Walk through before the kite festival
      1. Steve Palmer asked if not mowing was by design
      2. OTHP only has meadow space and trees/forest areas
         1. The unmowed meadow area can lead to a new ecosystem
         2. Kyle Warren suggested setting aside transition land
            1. Something to also keep in mind for Town Forest
   2. Need to make a plan to share with Clark re: maintenant/management (for all parks)
      1. Consultants can be helpful esp re: conservation standpoint and flora/fauna
         1. Will reach out to Bryan Emerson
   3. OTHP is subject to an easement with USFWS from 1996
      1. RRCT has done some recon on this
         1. Focus on management plan for 1 park at a time – USFWS might pay
            1. Bob Houston of Falmouth outreach
            2. Rachel Carson supervision – Ken to research
      2. Improving the habitat is probably allowed/encouraged per the easement
         1. OTPH has great habitat for waterbirds, etc.
      3. Easement extends to surrounding private lands
      4. Easement specs should be part of management plan
4. Town Manager Update
   1. Encourage us to rethink signage in all parks, specifically in regards to the recent domestic animal change in the ordinance
      1. Signage is not consistent within parks and is beat up, not correct
      2. “Tobacco-free zone” language will remain on the large blue entrance signs
      3. Take key aspects of parks ordinance we want to highlight and make it attractive
      4. Sponsorship of signs
         1. Need to reach out to NYBA businesses who have sponsored in the past and ask them if they want to re-up for another 2 year term/revenue
            1. Ken to ask Darla at tomorrow night’s NYBA meeting
      5. Rosemary to put together a sign strategy
   2. Two recent incidents have occurred in the parks that had to be addressed by the Sheriff’s office
      1. Car break-in
      2. Also sharps have been found in Westcustogo
         1. Potential sharps box, like in Portland parks?
5. Royal River Conservation Trust Update
   1. OTHP map
      1. Conservation easement is not a right of way easement for the boat launch
      2. Helpful to ask Ryan Keith about whether easements count against frontage/acreage requirements
   2. Does P&R want to ask Selectboard and town attorney to draft a comprehensive easement?
      1. Ken to draft a letter to Rosemary so she can reach out to the landowner
         1. Appropriate for an executive session of Selectboard
6. Clark – To Do List
   1. List we have given to Clark is deemed “do able”
      1. Plowing Chandler Brook driveway
      2. Remove plastic fence and posts from old dump area at OTHP
      3. More big rocks along Westcustogo access road
      4. Plant grass/hydroseed on River Trail of OTHP area where knotweed was removed
      5. Can P&R get a heads up when fields are going to be mowed? (re: Bobolinks)
         1. Fields are to be hayed after 7/15
         2. Annual mowing needs to be included in management plan and can be advertised in town newsletter
      6. Plow Town Forest access at Rt 9 shoulder
         1. Town has materials for parking area
      7. Remove barbed wire at Chandler Brook
         1. Is there any kind of service that would be able to come do this?
            1. Boy Scouts?
            2. Hire out landscaper?
   2. Are fires allowed in parks?
      1. Per ordinance, yes, but need to be cleared by Fire Chief & Rosemary first
   3. Expand parking lot at OTHP by clearing trees and allowing place for police
      1. Access to field improved
      2. Change layout for better use
7. Kite Festival Recap
   1. Positive day
   2. Maybe we can table next year or provide more info about P&R
   3. Brainstorm other ideas for parks
      1. Full moon snowshoes [January 31, March 2, March 31]
      2. Self-led discovery
         1. RRCT selfie station stands are available all year round
8. Other
   1. New trees are in at Westcustogo
      1. Steve put on water bags
   2. Big map is up at Chandler Brook
   3. Spraying invasives for 2 years (Bryan) should eliminate them
   4. Split rail fence at Westcustogo needs work
   5. Town forest
      1. Gerry Whiting (licensed local forester)’s plan for TF is similar to ours
         1. Thin it out before it blows over
         2. Shore up trails
         3. Figure out skidder trails via GPS
         4. Todd Skeevy (sp?) & Paul Napolitano to seek out market for downed trees, like what they did for Cumberland Town Hall trail area
      2. Before town charter, Conservation Committee had free reign over decisions on TF without Selectboard or voter input
         1. Do we have same jurisdiction & ability to assess a stump fee?
         2. Anne moves that we talk to Gerry about moving forward with plan
            1. Jim seconds
            2. Unanimous