

## **North Yarmouth Parks Committee**

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

6:00 PM

Wescustogo Community Center

**Approved 6/4/23**

Present: Scott Kerr, Steve Palmer, Kim Merrill, Bob Abbot, Laurie Gilman,

Guest: Marty Kremer, Clark Baston (Public Works), David Reed.

- I. **Call to order** – 6:05 P.M.
- II. **Announcements** - none
- III. **Approval of Minutes** - a motion to approve the April 4th minutes, seconded and approve by all.
- IV. **Financial Report** – none
- V. **Public Comment** – none
- VI. **New Business**

### **A. Committee Membership**

*It was announced that Steve Palmer and Kim Merrill will not be seeking re-appointment.* Brief discussion regarding recruitment and the selection process followed.

## VII. Old Business and Updates

A. **Developing an annual and multi-year calendar** – no action

B. **Parks Ordinance** - Laurie has a copy of the changes to the parks/recreational areas in town. It was decided to wait until next month to discuss as Laurie needs to identify what needs to be updated for changes. We need to be aware that if we have minor changes this is workable, but if we make major changes it will be more of a charter change.

C. **Bylaws** - Bob Abbott requested that we (**Laurie?**) look at our by-laws as they are now out of date and need to be reviewed and updated.

D. **Baston Park** dredging, permitting etc. update and future direction – no action

### E. **Chandler Brook Management Plan.**

1. Steve outlined the North field plan to Clark Baston regarding the **removal of white pine trees**. *The first stage of the removal is fall 2023. Removal will continue for two more years to reach the optimal amount of white pine.*
2. Clark suggested the later part of August would work as well as the birds should not be nesting and the ground would be dry.
3. Clark's crew will chip the trees and then remove the chips. It was discussed where to place these wood

chips for future use on trails. One option might be the Eleanor Hayes Town Forest trails.

4. **Clark** will connect **Laurie** to set up a time to meet at Chandler Brook to check out the various trails regarding maintenance that needs to be done, *including the possibility of PW keeping the south river bank trail mowed so it can be used in all season.*

## ***F. ALL PARKS***

### **1. Sign refurbishing, replacement and additions.**

- A. A discussion of the new trail maps for CB that have been accepted by the committee. Two maps and kiosks are ready. Once laminated, ***Bob will place them at the two entrances to the North field.*** The new maps now include prohibition of domestic animals to protect the scrubland habitat.
- B. It was decided that we should have a sign at entrance to EHTF like we have at all our other parks. The cost is estimated to be around \$3,000.00. It was the committee's agreement that we keep it consistent with our other park signs.
- C. ***PW will move the monument at EHTF from the roadside to a place near the kiosk in the parking area***

### **2. Invasives**

- a. **Poison Ivy** - Scott discussed an over abundance of this plant with Paul Larrivee, in our parks.
- b. **a motion was made to ask Paul Larrivee on proper way to deal with the poison ivy, motion was seconded and all approved.**

c. **Scott** will ask Diane on a report regarding Eric Grove work at OTHP.

3. **Trail Work – Public Works** (PW) will take care of the down trees in EHTF and bring more bring in more chips.

#### **G. Chandler Brook.**

1. A discussion regarding dog waste, dog bags and receptacles. Should we place additional receptacles further into the Parks or do we purchase biodegradable waste bags? As it stands now the waste is placed into the dumpster when Public Works picks up the barrels at the Parks. **Clark will look into placing extra trash barrels further into the parks for the public to use in hopes that they will pick up their animal's waste rather than leave it on the paths or tied to trees.**

2. **Ag Allies** status and communication - There is money in the budget for lime and fertilizer.

3. Scott made a motion hire Paul Larrivee to do a survey on the land and how to deal with our forest at Chandler Brook.

a. **A motion was made to have Paul hired to survey Chandler Brook for forest maintenance, the motion was seconded and all approved.**

H. **Wescustogo – Steve** is looking into the signage in this park.

**I. Sam Ristich Trail -**

- a. There is no story on the boards at the walk when Bob checked. According to Steve the community center is working on getting this up and running.
- b. Bob reported that Andrea Berry's group, the Wild Seed Project, wants to take on rejuvenating the nature trails as such. Bob suggested that we put up small signs that could identify the various trees on the trail.
- c. **Laurie** will reach out to Andrea Berry to ask about where she stands on the various projects she felt her group would be able to do at OTHP and SRNT.

**J. Knight's Pond kiosk - Clark** *will contact Ben Grover to ask where the kiosk to be for the new North Yarmouth trail leading to KP preserve call be placed.*

**IX - Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 6 P.M., June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**X – Adjournment.** At 7:58 pm

Submitted by: Kim Merrill