

North Yarmouth Parks Committee

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

Wescustogo Community Center

Minutes

Present: Steve Palmer, Kim Merrill, Bob Abbot, Laurie Gilman, Andrea Berry (SB liaison)

I. Call to Order – 6:05

II. Approval of Minutes – Unanimously approved as presented

III. Public Comment - none

IV. New Business

- A. **Chair election** Scott Kerr resigned the committee in early June leaving the chair vacant. The committee nominated and unanimously voted to have Laurie Gilman and Bob Abbott as acting co-chairs.
- B. **Members recognition.** The committee recognized and expressed appreciation for the service to the committee and community of the members leaving the committee, Scott Kerr 10 years, Steve Palmer (4) and Kim Merrill (2).
- C. The **process of replacing members was reviewed.** This included the application forms, the interview process, and the process of referring the committee recommendations to the Select Board who is formally charged with making the appointment of members to the committee. Tentative dates were set for workshops to interview the three applicants currently interested in being on the committee.
- D. **Joint Standing Committee (North Yarmouth/Cumberland).** Bob, a member of the JSC reported the committee had a lengthy discussion Knight's Pond Preserve.
 - NY provided an update on the Village Center trail project, what it is, how it will provide a second formal trailhead and NY with direct access to the preserve, and that the contractor promised to have the trail completed this fall.
 - The NY Town Manager announced that the parcel that would complete Preserve's ownership of all the property surround Knight's Pond would not be donated as had been long expected. The owner now intends to sell the property or develop it.
 - The Cumberland Town Manager reminded the committee that projects costing up to \$5,000 can be undertaken without the need for JSC approval. However, the cost of all projects is financed 50/50 by both towns.
 - Cumberland reminded us that when doing major trail work in wetland areas it's important to have expert support when dealing with DEP. They recommended Dan

Diffen of Sevee and Mahar before doing any work such as building a viewing platform on the pond.

V. Old Business

All Parks, Preserves and Trails

A. Planning /records/Communications

- Developing an annual and multi-year calendar – committee – no action
- Developing a database/file system where important documents, maps, communications and such are stored– no action
- History of the Parks and Forests CB, EHTF, WP - get info from Scott – Bob
- Parks Ordinance and Committee By-laws Update – no action
- Communications: Facebook Page, Review, All Trails etc. – no action
- Trail Maps on Website – no action

B. **Signage** Update – Steve reported that the cost of the new signage, including a kiosk at the north entrance to Old Town House Park, would be coming from the committee’s reserve funds. Standards for signs, fonts, color and such need to be obtained and followed. The signs themselves would be mounted on aluminum post installed by Public Works. The kiosk would be costing \$1250. Steve will continue on as a volunteer in the future. *Bob will follow-up.*

It was pointed out that the kiosk at the boat launch on route 9 was leaning back and that *RRCT should be informed* since they are responsible for it.

C. **Use of reserve funds.** A question was raised (Bob) as to how we get money from the reserve funds for unanticipated expenditure (something that wasn’t included in the yearly committee budget). While several people felt it could be done, no one was sure how and that the *town manager needed to be consulted for a definitive explanation.*

D. Invasives

- Poison Ivy mitigation, especially at OTHP, *needs to be addressed.*
- *The committee was told to expect a report from Eric Grove at the end of the fiscal year on the invasive work he had completed. Town Manager needs to be contacted regarding this.*
- It was mentioned that we have \$5,000 in the 2024 budget to continue work in invasive control and that we will soon *need a write plan for this work.*

- E. **Dog waste, bags and receptacles** - no more purchased after current supply is gone
– this is now the responsibility of Public Works

VI. Chandler Brook Preserve (CBP)

North Field. It was pointed out recently (Town Manager/Andrea Berry) that while the committee's Manage Plan, approved by the Select Board, included a prohibition of dogs and horses in the north field, it does not rule. Such restriction can only be implemented by changing the Town Ordinance which presently does not prohibit. Changing in the Town Parks ordinance requires a Town Vote, usually held at the town meeting in June each year.

Tree cutting timing, marking and cutting in North Field will be done late summer.
Bob will follow-up

South Field. Finding someone to fertilize and lime this field discussed with new possibilities mentioned to do it. *Laurie will follow-up.*

VII. Baston Park (BP)

- Andrea reported she spoke with the Yarmouth Town Councilor, who said that the Army Corp was not communicative so there has been no new information about the possible dam removal.
- The committee will continue working with Steve Palmer (as a volunteer) on the dredging project in the future.

VIII. Knight's Pond Preserve (KPP) (see above JST)

IX. Eleanor Hayes Town Forest (EHTF)

The plaque on the monument is very tarnished and could use cleaning.

Action needs to be taken on the budgeted upgrading. This will involve securing ~~have~~ equipment to grade the trails. The Town Manager will need to be involved.

X. Sam Ristich Nature Trail (SRNT) Report. The Wild Seed Project has a program called "Let's Create" for children, where they identify plant and such has been using the Nature trail. Kids love it. They plan to use that as a model for this trail. No cost to the town.

XI. Village Center trail. We need boundary markers for that land as we develop the trail system that will leave to KPP. *Will need Town Manager's help on this.*

XII. Next meeting: August 2, 2023

Adjournment: 8:00