

# North Yarmouth Parks and Recreation

*Wednesday  
August 4, 2021  
6:30 PM*

*Wescustogo Hall Community Center*

**Present:** Bob Abbott (chair), Ted Danforth, Steve Palmer, Scott Kerr, Elise Kern, Kim Merrill.

**Absent:** Laurie Gilman

**Guests:** Adam Pereira, Royal River Conservation Trust; Eric Gagnan, Yarmouth Water District; Jennifer Robbins, Skyline Farm

- I. Call to Order – 6:35pm
- II. Announcements
  - a. Welcoming of new Committee members and guests
  - b. Group agreement to make secretary role a rotating position each month
- III. Minutes Approval
  - a. Unanimous approval of July minutes by 3 members present at that session
- IV. New Business
  1. Eric Gagnan, Yarmouth Water District
    - a. Discussion of group walk performed the previous week from Skyline Farm to the gravel pits on the Yarmouth Water District parcel and potential connectivity routes.
    - b. Adam shared map of prospective trails to be added, two main areas targeted:
      - i. Yarmouth Water District land north of Skyline Farm
      - ii. Yarmouth Water District land south west of Eleanor Hayes Forest
    - c. Group was collectively supportive of efforts to increase connectivity, initial challenges to be tackled will be funding and then coordination of work. Eric stated that YWD has some funding for educational outreach efforts that could be relevant to handle signage, etc.
    - d. Goals of the connectivity plan would be to formalize allowed usage of YWD land that abuts NY lands by establishing formal trails.
    - e. YWD would lean on the Parks & Rec committee for a vision and specific plan, they would help execute and fund. RRCT would provide consultative expertise on placement of trails and build-out. RRCT would also be able to

provide expertise on grant applications should those become necessary to fund the project.

- f. Discussion of cost included question of whether TIF funds could be used, committee unsure whether TIF funds must be spent within the TIF district itself as these lands fall outside that.
- g. Discussion of allowed uses of the trail centered on foot traffic as YWD generally does not support use of motorized vehicles on their lands due to potential water contamination. Eric will follow up with their geologist for an assessment as to whether there are any constraints at these sites that would limit usage like horseback riding or bicycles.
- h. Jen from Skyline will discuss with Skyline board next week and report back about their vision for the parcel adjacent to their lands.

2. Small tracked excavator - \$1012.50 EHTF

- a. Board unanimously approved request for expenditure of \$1,012.50 to fund half of cost for Public Works team to rent a small tracked excavator to repair snowmobile trail. Smoothed trail will then be covered with wood chips for improved surface. Stumps will also be pulled during this process.

3. Baston update - Wetland delineation report \$1,100

- a. Application with DEP to dredge Baston Park requires a Wetland Delineation Report in order to proceed. Board unanimously approves.
- b. Discussion of potential impact of Yarmouth dam removal to viability of Baston Park boat access. Given lack of information and speculation that water levels may not fall as significantly near this location, committee agreed to continue to pursue this process. Current timeline estimate (if approval from DEP secured) would be to commence dredging in August 2022, likely refreshed dredging performed every 2 years to maintain depth but no additional permitting would be required for this as it would be considered maintenance.

4. Baston – Beneficial Use License

- a. This license granted by the DEP, and will allow for up to 100 cubic yards of material from the potential dredge to be placed elsewhere in the Baston park property. Rest to be hauled away.

5. Park Monitoring Program

- a. Ted provided update on current status, has secured 2 or 3 volunteers but needs a few more. Program would create a designed Monitor as lead for each town-owned park of significant size. Duties of role would include weekly monitoring of major maintenance needs, parking lot capacity, and any other notable issues. Ted to hold meeting of interested volunteers soon. Elise and Kim both communicated willingness to assist as needed.
- b. Discussion of need to provide a way for general public park users to provide feedback or recommendations if they see items in need of addressing at each park. Could be mentioned on park signage, potentially a Google form, or dedicated P&R email address to contact.

V. Old Business

1. Secretary position – Agreed to be rotating role among committee members. Elise Kern recording minutes for this session.
2. Invasives planning
  - a. No update at this time, Draven not in attendance. Motion was made and passed to also request grant funds for invasives maintenance at Chandler Brook. Current applications in progress are for Town Forest and Old Town House.
3. Sam Ristich Nature Trail update
  - a. Work begins in one week from meeting date. Jonathan Dawson (contractor) will be present, RRCT maintenance crew present for two weeks.
4. Chandler Brook management plan - Bob
  - a. Need to specify in management plan things like mowing plan, allowed use, permitted activities, etc, in order to maintain habitats and unique plant life.

VI. Requested topic for next meeting – overview of Budget for benefit of new committee members

VII. Adjournment – 8:31pm

Minutes recorded by Elise Godinez Kern, committee member.