

North Yarmouth Parks and Recreation

April 7, 2021

6:30 PM

Zoom

Agenda

In attendance: Anne Lang, Steve Palmer, Bob Abbott (chair), Ted Danforth, Scott Kerr
Guests: Rosemary Roy (town mgr), Austin Harrell (Select Board by phone), Brian Sites (Select Board)

I. Call to Order - Bob

- a. 6:35 pm

II. Minutes Approval

- a. Steve moves to accept March minutes as submitted
- b. Ted 2nds
- c. unanimous

III. New Business

- 1. Baston wetland delineation study request - Steve
 - a. Update is that we're no further than the last meeting amongst Steve, Al, and 2 DEP folks
 - i. Initial proposal to DEP was not clear about ADA accessibility
 - 1. Once that was made clear, DEP asked us to remove the existing corrugated put in at Route 9 and replace with vegetation
 - a. We have no easement to the property in question - was never intended to be a launch
 - ii. To move forward, we need to get rid of existing launch and get wetland delineation study
 - iii. Other considerations
 - 1. Yarmouth dam removal in a few years
 - a. Scott suggests doing depth checks on the river to assess the water levels and their anticipated changes with a dam removal
 - 2. Expanded parking at Baston Park
 - iv. Framed as a maintenance dredging issue vs a one time dredging
 - b. Timeline - probably not this summer; likely approval by Jan 2022, and dredging summer 2022
 - c. Rosemary wants to connect with Nat Tupper, Yarmouth Town Mgr, re: river study

- i. Concern is that there is quite a bit of mercury in the sediment and that dam removal will wash it downstream
- 2. OTHP removing dead trees and shrubs - Steve
 - a. Stemmed from Living Well to do kite festival
 - b. Best spot for vendors is along the top of the ridge, but kite flyers need 500' clearance from trees
 - c. Ridge trees are mostly dead or in decline
 - i. Would be good for management of trees, as well as allow more winds to flow through the park
 - d. Clark has been familiarized with the area in question, and can accommodate in his Public Works crew schedule
 - i. It is out of the Fish & Wildlife Zone
 - ii. Bob moves that Public Works to move forward addressing this stretch of tree removal
 - 1. Anne 2nds
 - 2. Unanimous
 - 3. Rosemary to inform Select Board that this will happen this spring

IV. Old Business

- 1. Annual Town meeting Ordinances
 - a. Rosemary's assessment of the ordinances that have gone through the public hearing process and certified by Town Clerk to go through on the 4/24 town meeting once the warrant is approved this Monday
 - i. PPH article today
 - ii. We have the option to withdraw the ordinances, but then there would be an election in June, we can have a special/open town meeting then
 - 1. If we want to amend the language, it has to have another public meeting before June 8th election
 - a. Could also have an informal forum vs. the formal Select Board public hearing process
 - i. Only needs 1 week notice, and can announce at next week's Select Board meeting
 - 2. Bobby Silcott and Rosemary have received FOIA requests for complaints
 - 3. Brian has said he has received more emails about this than any other topic ever
 - 4. Ted's suggestion is to amend the Parks Ordinance and totally remove the Animal Control piece to focus on it further, but still be able to put through the other pieces
 - 5. Other concerns

- a. Chandler Brook lower level is being developed as a wildlife habitat, so dogs cannot be off leash there
 - b. Dog access in/out of river causes erosion
 - iii. Really need to frame this positively around inviting public input and get that narrative clearly out
 - iv. Anne moves to
 - 1. Request the Select Board to remove from the Town Meeting warrant the Animal Control Ordinance and the Regulations of Use for the Parks Ordinance for Select Board consideration in the special town meeting in April;
 - 2. Request Select Board to put before the townspeople at the special town meeting in June the revised Animal Control Ordinance and REgulations of Use for the Parks Ordinance;
 - 3. Parks & Rec committee to hold a public forum on May 5th to continue to seek public input on the leash vs unleashed animal control ordinance language;
 - a. Steve 2nds the motion
 - b. Unanimous passage
- 2. Monitoring program – Ted
 - a. Ted working with Ann on Living Well to coordinate volunteers for Parks Monitoring Program stewards
 - i. Rosemary to alert Select Board to program details and put in their next packet for 4/20
 - b. Bob moves that we proceed with the Parks Monitoring Program
 - i. Steve 2nds
 - ii. Unanimous
- 3. Milkweed project - Ted
 - a. Ted et al went out into Chandler Brook last week to coordinate next steps for milkweed planting in the first week of May
 - b. Augurs and seeds already purchased
 - c. Public Works will mow the CB lower field area before the planting
- 4. EHTF – trail layout and construction plan – Scott
 - a. Bob and Scott went out to Town Forest last week with a marked up map adjusted for the YWD survey and where he and Bob walked
 - b. They walked potential loop trails and assessed wet areas which were prevalent along Rt 9
 - c. Primitive path has been marked out with the goal of volunteer clearing out
 - i. Bob and/or Scott would be willing to show other committee members around

- ii. No budget considerations
- iii. Scott will use his own equipment to clear this out

5. Chandler Brook management plan - Bob

- a. Proposals from Ben Smith
 - i. Not moving forward with those at this time
 - ii. Ben not 100% on what we want/need and has high sticker price
- b. Option to do a basic narrow option easement 1 pager from Alan Stearns/Royal River Conservation Trust
- c. Rosemary to send P&R Alan's minimum requirements

6. Recent Town survey – what does it tell us – planning

- a. All members to review and provide feedback

V. Round Robin

- a. Rosemary to let us know once Select Board approves the next steps on the ordinance/town meeting process to put on our Facebook P&R page
- b. Survey by Wayne Wood to be addressed
- c. July/August - presentation to Select Board on our P&R achievements
 - i. Annual town report will go to Rosemary at end of June

VI. Adjournment

- a. **9:09 pm**