

North Yarmouth Parks and Recreation Committee

August 3rd, 2022,

6:30 PM

Wescustogo Community Center

Minutes

Meeting Called to Order: 6:36 PM

Members Present: Scott Kerr, Steven Palmer, Kim Merrill, Bob Abbott, Laurie Gilman

Guests: Alan Ahlers, Marty Kremer (sp?), Andrea Berry (SB Liaison)

Announcements: None

Approval of Minutes: July minutes will be approved at September meeting

Public Comment - None

New Business. None

Old Business

Financial Report. Steve talk with Diane and will present the findings at next meeting

Baston Park

Dam removal

Steve Palmer asked if Parks and Recreation Committee was still interested in dredging to create water access to the Royal River from the Baston Park pond. He outlined what has been done to date and money spent. Going forward will involve more time and fund expenditure. He asked for committees concerns and recommendations.

Guest, Marty Kremer advised the pro/cons of the removal of the dams in Yarmouth and the effects it will have on the level of water in the rivers of our parks and what effect it will have on the wild life should the dams be removed. The Royal River Alliance seems to be in favor of going forward with the removing the dams. The Army Corp of Engineers seems to be dragging their feet to give their analysis of the dam removal. There is the potential to lose the dry hydrant on RT 9 if the dams are removed, along with the recreational value of the river.

Andrea Berry, Select Board liaison, asked what the Parks and Recreation committee would like the town to do, and how the SB could be of help. Andrea asked what concerning questions the committee would like to asked of the SB.

Scott Kerr pointed out that dam removal is the focus in Yarmouth now. Since it presently affects the river water level all the way up to about the entrance of Chandler brook, it's very important that North Yarmouth be fully involved. He suggested doing our own study to get a depth map of the bottom of the river from the Elm Street dam to Chandler brook.

Bob Abbott suggested we get as much data as possible to base our decision on, especially the long anticipated Army Corp report.

Damage Swing

Steve will check with Town manager to see if we have insurance to cover the damaged swing and if we can replace it.

Story Walk Trail

Significant progress made but date for opening not yet determined.

Notices, kiosks and communications

Laurie sent out one page list of the rules and regulations for our parks. Scott suggested we review and make comments. There is no difference in what Laurie sent out or our ordinance. Both Diane and Brian approved. The ordinance should be 11 x 17. We need to include a notice on the kiosk stating that the public should not post signs on the kiosks without first contacting the Town office.

Communications: Laurie has been updating our facebook site. She would like to take pictures of the different parks and ask if people if they can identify the photos, also have the public submit their own pictures of the various parks.

ALL PARKS –

Picnic Tables placed by Public Works are now being used

Invasives:

Work plan with Paul Larrivee, Clark Baston and Eric Grove. Scott report that Paul Larrivee has not responded and Scott is still waiting.

NYPRC email account still not forwarding as requested.

Chandler Brook Preserve

South Field. Ag Allies update. Bobolink activity reported. Discussion of signs for next year. This will be looked at more next meeting with the goal of being ready to post signs in the spring of 2023. It is hoped that the committee will vote on the Chandler Brook Preserve North Field Management Plan in the near future. Steve Palmer asked what the committee should do about dogs/horses in the North field, prohibit year-round or only during certain time of the year? This was tabled for discussion at our next meeting as well as a decision on South field restrictions.

Old Town House Park

Poison Ivy - Scott will call Paul Larrivee regarding this and how to proceed.

Sam Ristich Nature Trail

Natural History and Trail education. Bob Abbott would like to use the existing numbered post along the trail with updated information possibly accessible via QR code.

Knight's Pond Preserve

Bob reported that it is understood that the trail from the Village Center via Village View leading to Knight's Pond Preserve will be constructed by the Grover company by this winter. He asked if the 13 acres between Village View I and II will be the responsibility of PR committee once the legal transfer occurs?

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 7, 2022

Adjournment: 8:31 pm

Submitted by Kim Merrill