

North Yarmouth Parks and Recreation Committee

April 20, 2022 at 6:30 PM at Wescustogo Community Center

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 6:36 by Scott Kerr. Present: Scott Kerr, Steve Palmer, Robert Abbott, Laurie Gilman and Kim Merrill. Absent: Elise Kern Guest: Andrea Berry.
- II. Announcements: no announcement were made
- III. Approval of Minutes: Bob Abbott made a motion to accept March minutes, seconded by Kim Merrill.
- IV. Public Comment: No public comments were made
- V. New Business: No new business was discussed
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Select Board and P&R Mission, the Recreation component, etc. (no news)
 - b. Royal River: Trees in and across river: Jeff Brown has been attempting to eradicate some of the debris. Bob Abbott mentioned using Jeff's report on our kiosks and Facebook pages about the status of the river, and to have people report blockage on the river. Jeff will not be available for the summer. We want open transparent people to tell us any troubles that are seen on the river. Andrea Berry commented that Freeport uses a "GIS" which is a mapping tool to use via an app on your Phone. Kiosk could say that people could use a QR code to notify any trouble spots and date the information.
 - c. Committee membership and goals: Steve felt that we should be mindful of what the committee wants and what the applicant feels they can bring to the committee. That we should interview an applicant so that we have a better understanding of what the applicant can offer the Parks and Recreation committee.
 - i. Andrea Berry has applied for a position on the Parks and Recreation Committee, tonight she gave an overview of her qualifications and what she feels she can offer this committee. She described some of the work she has done with various plants, invasive plants, etc. She has a background in non-profit management. Andrea has served on many other committees that involve working of trails, and she is the Executive Director of the Wild Seed project located in the center of North Yarmouth.
 - ii. It was noted that Elise Kern's term on the Parks and Recreation Committee is ending this year, we need to verify if she plans to continue as member. We still need to fill one more 3 yr position.
 - d. Virtual meeting policy: Public hearing. Scott recommended that we need to vote to accept the approved remote policy as recommended by the Select Board. Steve made a motion to accept the policy. Laure seconded the motion to accept the remote policy. Voted to accept by all. However, it was suggested that Scott push for an amendment for a practical hybrid policy that will allow for remote

participation of individual members when the majority of the members are meeting in-person.

- e. Financial: Budget and Monthly Accounting. Operating and Reserve budgets
 - i. Steve Palmer stated our budget was acceptable and everything requested by TIF was accepted. The approximate \$16,000 in the budget for signs was for Municipal Facilities Grounds signs. Only \$1,200 is for Parks and Recreation. Significant funds in reserves accounts to be used for appropriate work.
 - ii. Steve will talk to Diane Barnes to request a monthly budget report of the committee's regular budget, reserve and TIF account. Moved to have Bob connect with Jonathan to get the Eleanor Hayes Forest Kiosk. He will also request a quote for a second kiosk for the new Village Center trailhead for next year. It was asked if the Joint committee of Knight's Pond is going to be in charge of both signs in Cumberland and the new trail in the North Yarmouth Village Center? And will the Village Center trail be considered part of Knight's Pond, thus under the Joint Committee or a separate trail under Parks and Recreation.
 - iii. Scott Kerr will be looking at Ben Grovers agreement in the sub division approval process relevant to the trail across the parking lot of the Village Center.
 - iv. Regarding the Knight's Pond and the Joint Committee, it was pointed out by Steve that besides two Select Board members, there is provision for a citizen member. Steve suggested Bob fill that role. He agreed, thus giving Parks and Recreation official membership. The Select Board and the Town Manager need to be informed of this recommendation.
- f. Animal Ordinance
 - i. Scott Kerr will talk to Bobby Silcott to draft a new animal ordinance for North Yarmouth to present to the Parks and Recreation committee along with the Select Board to review and discuss. This ordinance is separate from an ordinance of the Rules and Regulations for using NY parks.

VII. ALL PARKS

- a. Picnic Tables: ordered, receipt date unknown, interface with Clark Baston
- b. Sign refurbishing, replacement and additions:
 - i. Steve Palmer brought in option for a signs for the Parks. Steve Palmer has been working on refurbishing the 2 large blue/gold park signs. The signs are the Westcustogo and Old Town Parks.

VIII. Recurring items and updates

- a. History of the Parks and Forests CB: Scott Kerr had made some progress on the history of the different town parks.

IX. Communications: Facebook Page, Review, All Trails etc.

- a. No report. Parks trail maps on the Parks and Recreation website and the Town website review/updating. Elise is working on this.

X. Old Town House Park

- a. Invasives: Work plan with Paul Larrivee, Clark Baston and Eric Leek.
 - i. Scott Kerr requested to have the committee make a motion to proceed w/Paul Larrivee's proposal to remove invasive plants (honeysuckle, buckthorn, etc) at the OTHP. Steve Palmer made a motion to accept the

proposal. Motion seconded by Laurie Gilman. Motion passed unanimously.

- ii. Steve Palmer expressed concerned about removal of all the honeysuckle on the banks of the river at the OTHP as some may be needed to prevent the erosion of the river bank. Scott Kerr will review this concern with Paul Larrivee. Andrea Berry suggested we include replanting with native plants to stabilize the river banks.
- iii. Paul Larrivee has placed a grant with Maine Forestry Service for the work on our other parks.

- b. Removal of Dead Trees done
- c. Management plan for site of removed OTHP needs to be developed

XI. Baston Park

- a. Yarmouth Dam Removal. Water Depth. DEP application process. Scott Kerr is communicating to Yarmouth officials our concerns with the water depth of the river once dam is removed.

XII. Chandler Brook

- a. Bob Abbott reported that the RRCT trail crew did extensive work on the south woodland route at Chandler Brook to open it up. It was recommended that have Clark Baston's crew keep it mowed and open for use during the warm months. Steve Palmer will connect with Clark Baston.
- b. South Field - Laurie Gilman recently went to the meeting at Skyline Farm that Ag Allies was presenting. Our South field project with the Ag Allies was mentioned.
- c. Trail Closure and sign. Bob Abbott and Kim Merrill will monitor the trail/signs
- d. A discussion regarding Dog waste: bags and receptacles to be added to the parks to help promote dog owners to clean up after their dogs. Steve Palmer advised that he has been informed that people are being respectful and picking up their dogs' waste, and to hold off purchasing waste receptacles.
- e. There was a ranging discuss on the management of the preserve.

XIII. Eleanor Hayes Town Forest (EHTF)

- a. A brief discussion of the work needed, more work by PW on the trails and the need for making the parking lot more formal with parking slots and a kiosk. Scott Kerr report that a Land Survey is making progress.

XIV. Wescustogo

- a. PWD sludge spreading - Scott Kerr feels that we need to consider posting that sledge was spread on the property to be transparent. Scott Kerr will email Diane Barnes regarding encouraging the town to take some responsibility.

XV. Sam Ristich Nature Trail

- a. Natural History and Trail education. Bob Abbott has been making kiosk that shows a map of the nature trails, and places to go. We need new trail blazes. Bob Abbott has been monitoring and keeping the trail clean. Living Well committee member Virginia Van Dyke is very interested in having a story walk connecting to Sam Ristich NatureTrail. Bob Abbott has been in communication with her regarding the story book trail.
- b. It was brought up that the dumping of road kill at the pit on the Sam Ristich Trail is an issue. Steve Palmer will contact Clark Baston to discuss other possibilities.

It was agreed upon to table the rest of the agenda due to how late it was getting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 5, 2022

Adjournment: a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm

Minutes taken by Kim Merrill and Laurie Gilman