

## Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting MINUTES – June 13, 2023

**Members Present:** Tania Lillak (Chair), Richard Smith (Historical Commission), Sierra Muñoz, Brian Longin, and Angela Ippolito (Planning Board),

**Members Absent:** Danielle Strauss (Recreation Director), Verena Karsten (Tree Committee), Toni Bandrowicz (Vice Chair), and Steve Banks.

**Others Present:** Marzie Galazka (Director of Community and Economic Development) and Katie Phelan (Select Board Liaison), Brian Drummond, and Sheryl Levenson.

**Meeting called to order and recording started at 7:07 pm**

1. **Minute taker assignment:** Tania Lillak

2. **Public Comment:** Sheryl Levenson was there as a guest. She is a member of the Swampscott Conservancy (SC). She is starting to attend town committee meetings now that she has more time. Sheryl did not have any specific questions.

3. **Approval of minutes from May 9, 2023:** Sierra moved to approve, second by Richard. Unanimously approved.

4. **Updates on Action Items from last meeting's minutes:**

**Goal 65:** (*“Extend National Register status from the Lynn Line to Redington Street.”*)

**6/13 Update:** Marzie said the DCR commissioner very busy and it is hard to get on the schedule, but she will keep trying. Richard has not heard back from Nancy yet due to Glover property.

**Action Item:** Marzie will continue to follow up with new DCR commissioner. Angela will follow up with Nancy Schultz.

**Goal 53.** (*“Find and install additional areas for kayak and small boat storage”*)

**6/13 Update:** Steve walked the potential kayak sites (Whales Beach and Kings Beach) with Toni, Gino and Marissa and they solidified a plan on where to add racks.

**Action Item:** Steve to work with Marissa on submitting required documentation to ConCom.

**Goal #69:** (*“Develop and publish information on human interaction with wildlife”*)

Dan Proulx was scheduled to attend this meeting, but was not present.

**Action Item:** Tania to follow up with Dan.

**Goal #15:** (*“Acquire conservation restriction to protect open space land in perpetuity” Jackson Woods*)

**6/13 Update:** Marzie is getting an estimate for a plan of land which is needed for next steps on making Jackson Woods conservation land.

**Action Item:** Marzie to provide cost estimate for plan of land when she receives it.

**Goal #71:** *(Work with ENHC to create signage along Byway indicating points of interest)*

**6/13 Update:** Our request for money to hire a branding company did not make the TM warrant, but it will be on the next one.

**Action Item:** Marzie, Toni, and Brian looking into doing signs in-house using a local graphic designer.

## **5. New Business**

None.

## **6. OSRP Airtable Review – New**

**Goal #9** *(Ensure provision of playground/green space of the same square footage or more on site if property is re-used)*

Brian Drummond presented square footage information for the Hadley site. It is 25% building and 75% open space. He wants to keep the same percentages for the proposed boutique hotel. He suggested that with the Annex coming down, that land could be a parking garage. Angela said that zoning was passed at town meeting that the land be decommissioned as a school property. When it is decommissioned, the playground will be decommissioned too. It will be marketed to potential bidders through an RFP. The RFP is not out. Angela said the area must be revitalized and there will be compromises that have to be made. Brian said the playground is well used and he would like to see it stay. Sierra wondered about the playground at Linscott. Can that be improved? Is it conservation land? Marzie said Linscott is passive recreation only and the swings were grandfathered. Angela said there may be natural opportunities for playground space at the Hawthorne possibly. Marzie said the hotel team. Pinnacle Properties has been contracted to draft the RFP. Katie said she voted for community space at TM – it was not a majority SB vote. She wondered about a playground on the side of the library or town hall. Tania said 15% open space was in the vote at TM. Angela said this will probably be patio, outdoor seating, and green areas for the hotel. Brian concerned that the property will be up to 85% building coverage. Tania said TM wanted green space for Hawthorne so the compromise was the Hadley property to be commercial. Angela said we have to increase our commercial base. Marzie wondered about a playground at St. John's.

**Action Item:** Marzie will bring our request to Sean regarding the Hadley property. We are requesting adherence to the TM vote that 15% of the property be open space and we also request relocation of the playground.

## **7. Student involvement**

**Goal #67:** *(“Develop a program for a high school student to join the OSRPC each year”)* and **Goal #68:** *(“Develop and execute a plan for education in schools about the importance of open space and Town resources”)*.

**6/13 Update and Action Item:** Will look at recruitment in Fall; continue to table/discuss.

## **8. Memorial/ Monuments policy (Goal #1):**

**6/13 Update:** Richard submitted a proposal for next steps.

**Action Item:** Follow through with proposal starting with refine and adopt a policy.

**9. Property Acquisition (Goal #43):**

Archer St – Marzie submitted a grant application for trail design and work. She should hear by end of summer if the request was funded.

Hawthorne – There will be a 3<sup>rd</sup> forum in September. Comments were that residents need to know more about the process.

**10. Green Corridor:**

**Goal #73:** *Identify green corridor network system to connect open space & recreation facilities (streets and access easements)*

Toni will research green infrastructure and potentially identify locations for sidewalk drainage gardens. Committee will discuss with Marzie about funding for such work. Committee will also inform Mr. Cresta of potential locations for bike path work.

**Action Item:** Toni and Brian will connect on plan for Green Corridor; asks, grant potential, etc.

**Goal #76:** *Investigate and protect wildlife corridors; add to Green Corridor map as needed.*

Dan Proulx was scheduled to attend this meeting, but was not present.

**Action Item:** Tania to follow up with Dan.

**11. Task Force update – Rights of Ways, Paper Streets, Public Ways & Easements (Goal #48):**

Steve has sent a letter to Marzie for KP Law asking for a determination on Paper Streets under a number of the use cases we are facing. Waiting for response from KP law.

**12. Community Development Update:**

PARC grants are due on July 13. Marzie said we can apply for up to \$100,000 for acquisition of parkland, development of new parks or improvements to existing parks. Last year Marzie applied for funding to rehabilitate the swing section of Clark School (Abbott Park). Marzie welcomes input from the OSRPC regarding projects that we should prioritize for funding. Currently, on my list (not in any particular order) are the following:

- Windsor Ave Landing and public access to Foster Pond (Goal 64: (“Examine public access and programming potential” - at Foster Pond)
- Pickle Ball Courts at Phillips Park (not on plan)
- Walking Paths at Town Hall lawn (not on plan)
- Upgrades, re-sodding or artificial turf for soccer, to lower Jackson Field (not on plan).
- Walking path around Jackson Park and connection from Senior Center (Goal #63 Investigate feasibility of an ADA accessible path and Goal #60 Work with Swampscott for All Ages during park updates to examine ways to include recreation needs for 60+ year old residents)

Discussion:

Sierra wondered about playground improvements to Linscott? Limitations? Marzie to look into CR there.

Katie wondered about a playground close to Library? Marzie to look into Town Hall as a historic district.

Angela wondered about restoring swingset and redoing surface as a historic preservation.

Tania thought Windsor access Foster Pond was a priority.

Katie and Marzie said pickleball was very popular. Tania said it is not on the OSRPC plan.

Angela felt the project picked should serve the most people. Richard felt that under served areas were priority – Windsor Park and seniors at Machon and Community Centre.

Katie wondered about a splash park. Ideas were at Johnson Park or Windsor Park.

**Action Item:**

Marzie to send list of projects. Members to respond back to Marzie or Tania only as per Open Meeting Law. She will go with the highest priority item.

**Rail Trail (Goal #42)**

The Friends of the Rail Trail's next meeting is June 22 or 21. Meetings not advertised because a not for profit organization. Marzie to reach out to Alexis to include the OSRPC.

Bike sale for rail trail was last Sunday. SC has been amazing about plantings. Marzie wants to reach out to other committees. Marzie to talk to Tania.

Marzie mentioned a "bike bus" for kids to ride to school. Sierra talk to Alexis about rail trail and bike bus. Need more bike lanes. OSRPC should partner with schools, rail trail, PTO's, etc. for getting kids to school on foot or bike.

Rail trail ribbon cutting for completed sections later this summer. Work with SC to clean up plantings. Invite neighbors, contributors, state contingency.

**Abbott Park –**

Abbott Park improvements will be completed by July 1.

**Beaches –**

A local resident has offered to help to spruce up the bulletin boards at the beaches.

**Johnson Park –**

Design on hold. Marzie has applied for a grant to MVP for flooding. Changes to sea wall is first and foremost right now.

**13. Swampscott Conservancy update:**

Annual native plant sale at the Farmer's Market this past Sunday. Sold out quickly. A Bike ride was postponed due to weather.

**14. Committee/Department update – Climate Action Plan (CAP)**

Officially adopted by TM. Moved to once a month meetings. They will be discussing how to maintain momentum. They want to use the Airtable model. Sierra to connect with Tania to discuss further.

Marzie asked for CAP recommendations for gas leaf blowers. Angela would like CAP input into zoning goals.

**15. Committee/Department update – Tree Committee (Goal #24, 28)**

Spring planting is completed and 40 trees have been planted including the remaining trees of the arboretum around Town Hall. We are planning a rededication ceremony in July when the plaques have been installed. Jim Olivetti is going to be the chair and Jenn Honig is stepping up as the VC starting July.

**16. Committee/Department update - Conservation Commission:**

ConCom provided emergency approval for seawall repair at Kings Beach.

**17. Committee/Department update – Historical Commission:**

HC is hoping the historic Glover House will remain on land. No determination yet.

**18. Committee/Department update - Planning Board:**

Adopted several new by-laws at TM. Vinnin square. Discussing Hadley for down the road. Updated Master Plan in September. Updating housing production plan with MAPC. Marzie applied for grants, will find out in October if approved. Joint meeting with ZBA to go over new zoning. Angela plans to step down as chair when able.

**19. Committee/Department update – Recreation:**

No update.

**20. Other business**

Richard has decided not to renew his term on the OSRPC. He will be available to consult as needed. Angela has decided to resign from being a Full Member to be an Associate Member. Angela and Richard were thanked for serving on the committee since inception (11 years!)

Tania said we will tone down our pace for now and do what we can as a committee until we get new members. Dianne will be sending a potential new member list.

**Action Item:** Tania to proceed with finding two new voting members.

**21. Confirmation of next meeting date**

Tania is unable to attend on July 12. Three options were given:

1. Have meeting on July 12 and Toni chair it
2. Reschedule meeting to July 18
3. Cancel July meeting as a summer break.

**Action Item:** Tania to send email asking for preferences.

**Meeting adjourned and recording stopped at 9:10 pm**

## **Parking Lot**

**Goal 66:** (*“Install unified signage at primary facility entrances as well as along connecting paths/roads”*). Check to confirm that funding for company to do branding for signs is on Spring Town Meeting Warrant.

**Goal 49:** (*“Expand and improve public sidewalks along popular walking routes, especially Humphrey Street”*) Are Jersey barriers a permanent feature of the landscape? Could there be standards developed for sidewalk improvements? Marzie stated the town is surveying to look at using the barriers to improve the dining experience. Also looking to see if they can keep a designated bike lane connected to existing infrastructure.

**Action Item:** Marzie will present design once created.

**Goal 64:** (*“Examine public access and programming potential” - at Foster Pond*) There is a small piece of land that is off Windsor Ave. at the dam end of the pond that is owned by the Town. Ms. Galazka is looking for state grants to have a consultant do a design plan for the path from the road to the pond that is ADA accessible. Ms. Bandrowicz suggests that at some point should see if the resident that owns the property at lot #151 would put a conservation restriction on that piece of their property that abuts the pond and is next to the town owned land.

**Action Item:** Marzie to continue working on grant/CIC funding for design plans.

**Goal #72:** (*Explore options for additional trails HKF and on Aggregate property*)

**6/13 Update:** This will be put off until the Holcim Inc.(Aggregate) land acquisition is completed. Litigation with the town over the Earth Removal permit will need to be resolved first.

**Goal #77:** (*Investigate feasibility of adding water bottle refill stations along Green Corridor*)

Discussion: This would need to involve DPW as it would be a water main and maintenance issue. Are there existing water fountains that could be connected? Could also parallel with Rail Trail efforts. Tabling discussion until after Green Corridor is established via signage, painted indicators.