

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting
February 13, 2024, 7:00 pm
Remote (Teams)

Members Present: Tania Lillak (Chair), Toni Bandrowicz (Vice Chair), Steve Banks, Brian Longin, Sierra Muñoz,

Members Absent: Shauna Vera and Lauryn Hart

Town Representatives Present: Marzie Galazka (Community & Econ. Develop)

Town Representatives Absent: Danielle Strauss (Recreation Director), Katie Phelan (Select Board)

Meeting called to order and recording started at 7:05

1. Minute taker assignment Tania Lillak

2. Public Comment None

3. Approval of minutes Steve moved to approve minutes from January 9, 2023, which was seconded by Sierra, and unanimously approved.

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

Goal 69 (*“Develop and publish information on human interaction with wildlife”*) and **Goal 76** (*Investigate and protect wildlife corridors; add to Green Corridor map as needed.*)

Ongoing.

Goals 69 and 76 Action Item: Sierra to continue to work on Goals 69 and 76 pertaining to wildlife.

Goal 71 (*Work with ENHC to create signage along Byway indicating points of interest*) + (*other signage Goals #3, 47, 48, 66, 71, 75*)

(1) Signs needed: two 40 Steps signs; one "walk to beach" sign for Phillips Beach Ave. easement; a draft green corridor sign, and one of the "dog park/trail head" directional signs in the cemetery.

(2) Toni talked to condo association and all good with changes (removing sign with incorrect easement times, creating new sign with "rules" for easement, and small "public way" sign for under White Court address sign that say "private way")

Goals #3, 47, 48, 66, 71, 75 Action Items: Toni is meeting with sign company and will provide an update for March meeting.

Goal 65 *Extend National Register status from the Lynn Line to Redington Street.*

Goal 11 *Have Swampscott's section incorporated into DCR's "Lynn Shore Reservation" (landscape, hardscape, railing, lighting, signage) and pursue effort to have DCR take over or share maintenance.*

No update in February. Marzie is still waiting on Sean as he would like to take the lead on this discussion.

Goals 11 and 65 Action Item: Marzie to continue trying to schedule the meeting with the DCR Commissioner with Sean.

Goal 53 *Find and install additional areas for kayak and small boat storage*

Steve will talk to ConCom on February 27. Whales Beach park is a good place, but wants to talk to abutters. Probably do it as an RDA. ConCom has rejected Fisherman's Beach and suggested the parking lot instead. Steve said it will take up parking spots and no one likes the boat racks there, so probably won't get permission. Community outreach is important.

Goal 53 Action Item: Steve to report on kayak racks after Feb 27 ConCom meeting.

Goal 2 *Determine whether to expand trash/recycling facilities at all locations or implement "carry in/carry out" program*

Marzie said all beach entrances will have new barrels this year. Gino said trash receptacles for sure and not sure for recycling because there is cross contamination for recycling. Marzie said the new recycling bins would be can size. Sierra the cross contamination a disappointment and do we want to put effort into public outreach? Steve said the trash does overflow and people will put it in the recycling when that happens. Tania said we have to have recycling and the new can size bins will eliminate the cross contamination. Tania related that Gino has said he does not have enough guys at DPW for trash collection. All agreed that students and part-time employees can help.

Goal 2 Action item: Marzie to provide OSRPC input to Gino re: the need for recycling receptacles at all beaches. Marzie to look into public education for recycling.

Goal 8 *Develop a partnership/committee that includes representatives from ConCom, Swampscott Conservancy, Tree Task Force, and DPW to cohesively work together on plans for improving and maintaining open space+CAP*

Lauren looked into a few apps and like GoogleDocs the best, but still not great for our needed. Steve has experience in this and suggested either Teams or Slack as better options. Slack is a better tool but everyone has to have the app and Slack is only 90 days of conversation on free version which is not enough history for us. We need to consider town use. Marzie said the town IT is contracted out and she will share their contact info with Steve.

Goal 8 Action Item: Steve to work with Lauryn on the best solution for a collaborative tool to increase communication between committees.

Goal 12: *Investigate and address any open space/conservation encouragement by neighbors.*

ConCom is set to vote on and issue an Encroachment Policy FAQ at next their meeting on Feb. 27. It will go on ConCom website & Toni to see if can get into Town Newsletter as well.

Goal 12 Action Item: Tania to do an encroachment FB post.

Goal 13: *Remove dead trees and ornamental shrubs; trim remaining trees to improve overall health.*

No update in January from TC re: Howland Park.

Goal 13 Action Item: Tania to follow up with Tree Committee (Chair Jim O.) again to find out their recommendations for Howland Park.

Goal 14: *Repair seawall and stairway taking into consideration sea level rise and storm surges (per Beach Management Plan)*

Gino said a contract has been signed to complete the remainder of the Kings Beach Seawall repairs and he anticipates this work being completed by mid-May. Gino submitted a FY'25 capital request for \$300K for repairs to the Eiseman's Beach seawall. We need to co-ordinate with CAP committee – Marcia Smith is the chair. They want to do curved seawall.

Goal 14 Action Item: Toni/Marzie to contact Marcia Smith re: seawall recommendations.

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

No update in February. Currently waiting for funding for the survey; estimate is approx. \$5, 000 - \$ 8, 000. The committee wondered where funding was coming from.

Goal 15 Action Item: Marzie to follow up with Pete re: funding for the land plan survey in the spring.

Goal 19: *Address light pollution at night in open spaces*

No update in February. Important issue for the Hadley hotel so need to address soon.

Goal 19 Action Item: Toni to follow up with Colleen Hitchcock re: light pollution policy for Hadley hotel and talk to Lauryn re: this possibly being a student project.

5. New Business

Charter/Bylaw Recommendations: No word from David Grishman so will put this on hold for now.

Garden Art Walk

Pat Gorham heads this up and Toni wondered if the OSRPC would be interested in being involved:

The Garden Art Walk is back! This year the self-guided tour will be held on Saturday, June 29, 2024, from 11:00 to 3:00. Organized by ReachArts, this town-wide community event features local artists along with gardens of all shapes and sizes in neighborhoods

across our beautiful town. The Swampscott Senior Center along with the SHS Discovery Point Program will feature art activities, gardens, and lawn games.

Action Item: Sierra to talk to Pat Gorham re: Garden Art Walk and how the OSRPC can be involved.

Social Media

Lauryn created a document to outline and organize social media posts. She will draft up some posts in each respective area and link them to the document.

Historical Commission

Brian to sit in on Historical Commission as the OSRPC liaison.

6. OSRP Airtable Review

Goal 21: *Complete*

Goal 22: *Complete*

Goal 18: *Incorporate open space and recreation goals into land use planning and zoning*

Goal 23: *Develop map highlighting areas where zoning regulations should be created to limit negative impact of land use development*

Marzie offered help. Tania said we need a proactive plan or change to regulations.

Mike is not running for re-election. This can be a focus in the new master plan.

Goal 18 and 23 Action Item: Marzie to look into land use planning and zoning and how open space can be further incorporated.

Goal 24: *Develop plan for replacement of aged/ailing street trees*

Tree Committee continues to work on this.

Goals 26-30 were tabled until the March meeting.

7. Student involvement – Goals 67 and 68

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”*).

No update from Lauryn on a draft email to the high school guidance counselor. Toni said the SC student grant is going live this week. It will fund a student environmental project up to \$500 in Swampscott or Lynn schools. Brian can use.

Goals 67 and 68 Action Item: Lauryn and Brian to send email to high school guidance counselor.

Goals 67 and 68 Action Item: Toni to get the SC student grant message out.

8. Memorial/ Monuments policy – Goal 1

Brian missed the SB meeting. Marzie said there was a first reading at the meeting and no second reading yet.

Goal 1 Action Item: Marzie to find out when the second reading of Memorials policy by the SB will be.

9. Property Acquisition – Goals 9 and 43

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

Goal 43 *Identify areas for potential acquisition & Develop policies for Town acquisition of private land, placing priority on resource protection and with options for right of first refusal.*

Hawthorne Property: Design consultants, HDR, and staff were going to provide an executive summary of the process and findings at the 01/17/24 SB meeting, but it has been pushed to March 6 SB meeting.

Goals 9 and 43 Action Item: Marzie to provide an update from the 3/6/24 SB meeting and the next Hawthorne forum date.

Hadley Property:

Toni was at both SB meetings. There were 7 proposals, whittled to 3, and the Clearview proposal was the one picked. There will be plenty of input for public comment. There will also be a group or committee formed to which the OSRPC should be a part of. Tania did a spreadsheet. Get a member on the new Committee. Tania asked Marzie if she could advocate for committee. Tania said the Kinvarra group was the best because it had the most open space, and also included native plants, permeable pavers, solar panels and EV charging. Use of Linscott Park and Hawthorne property are not part of RFP and it seemed pretty clear to Toni they won't be used as per Peter Spellos.

Toni and Marzie will take a walk soon re: the playground equipment and where to move it.

Goals 9 and 43 Action Item: Marzie and Toni to discuss where to move the Hadley playground equipment.

Goals 9 and 43 Action Item: Marzie to advocate for the OSRPC to have a seat on the new Hadley committee.

Archer Street:

The LAND grant was submitted. Marzie met with state rep who did a site visit. She thought it was encouraging. We would need to take down tower structure as there can be wires over open space. Lookout tower maybe? Also need to address invasive species. Toni and Marzie met with an ecology company. Got a quote but it was not descriptive. Need more description.

Goals 9 and 43 Action Item: Marzie to get a new quote for the invasive species at Archer Street that is more descriptive.

10. Green Corridor – Goals #72-78

We looked at draft action plan again. Brian said funding is needed. Toni said some could be done in-house. We need to co-ordinate with paving and Gino. We need to identify with signs. Maybe green arrows and QR code and link to a green corridor map or a walking tour map. QR could go to a PDF. We need to get word out around town. Tania suggested starting with the first 3 steps of plan.

Goals 72-78 Action Item: Brian and Toni to talk about next steps – #3 on draft plan to be completed by summer.

11. Task Force update – Rights of Ways, Paper Streets, Public Ways & Easements – Goal 48

Steve working on ROW document.

Goal 48 Action Item: Steve to present ROW document for March meeting.

12. Community Development Update

Pickleball:

Marzie received a grant funding extension. She asked SB for a vote at next TM, but she did not get a favorable vote. Additional outreach and engagement is needed.

There will be a meeting February 15 at Senior Center. Three issues – noise, parking, and flooding. Marzie did a noise study and noise in 50-70db range. She worked with flooding wetland scientists. There will need to be 3” of gravel and 5” compact material and it needs to be pitched to contain rain gardens. Needs to do a Notice of Intent for ConCom. Need to have discussions with Gino to stripe parking. Need to have restrictions during beach season – Pickleballers only park closer to Bertram house.

There will be fencing and no lights – no night time playing. Need TM members to be educated and ask for their support. Misinformation is coming out and people think their sport courts/fields will be taken away. There are lots of proposals for school land, but can't give any of that land up. There are lots of proposals for private land, but it has to be town land. Tania asked for a vote to write a letter in support of the pickleball courts. Brian seconded and all were in favor. Toni needs to recluse herself as chair of the ConCom.

Action Item: Tania to write letter in support of the pickleball courts. All members to contact TM members re: pickleball courts.

Foster Pond – Goals 45 and 64 :

Toni said that the Carlson Terrace property was not sold. Administrative error by town. Still available if litigation with AI issue gets solved.

Marzie still working on glitch of tax title taking and not formally concluded yet. Still holding off on grant.

Goals 45 and 64 Action Item: Marzie to continue to work to get tax title of Windsor park land concluded.

Rail Trail – Goal 42:

Sierra met with Alexis on several issues re: Rail Trail, Safe Routes to School, walking/biking support/infrastructure/safety. There will be a loose community group on walking/biking to new Elementary School.

13. Swampscott Conservancy update

A good presentation on climate change was had and they are planning on more presentations. The website has updates: <https://swampscottconservancy.org/>

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

Sierra said a recent meeting was had and she will get back to us.

Action Item: Sierra to provide update on the CAP at the March meeting.

15. Committee/Department update – Tree Committee

Tania asked for long term tree canopy goals to present to TC. Tania said we should recommend a certain percentage of trees per town. Marzie to find out industry standards. All agreed native trees should be planted and let the TC should decide on type.

Action Item: Tania to provide long term tree canopy goals recommendations to TC. Marzie to find out industry standards.

16. Committee/Department update - Conservation Commission

No new updates in January. Next meeting is Feb 27.

Action Item: Toni to provide a ConCom update next meeting.

17. Community Preservation Act – Goal 57

No new updates in February. On back burner.

Goal 57 Action Item: Brian to continue to follow up with Select Board member Grishman re: CPA.

18. Committee Update: Master Plan

Planning board has finalized 27 individuals for the committee. They will be formally appointed by SB and will start in March. Will also work with the MAPC.

Action Item: Marzie to follow up with Shauna re: Master Plan Committee.

19. Committee/Department update – Recreation Commission:

No update in February.

Action Item: Danielle to provide a Recreation Commission update next meeting.

20. Other business

None.

21. Confirmation of next meeting date

Next meeting is March 12, 2024, which is planned to be virtual, on Microsoft Teams.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm