

**Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting
November 14, 2023, 7 pm
Town Hall and Remote (Teams)**

Members Present: Tania Lillak (Chair), Toni Bandrowicz (Vice Chair), Sierra Muñoz, Steve Banks, Brian Longin, Shauna Vera, and Lauryn Hart

Members Absent:

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

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

Meeting called to order and recording started at 7:06

1. **Minute taker assignment** Sierra Muñoz

2. **Public Comment** None

3. **Approval of minutes** Toni moved to approve minutes from October 12, 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.*)

Action Item: Sierra and Toni discussed at SC meeting if Goals 69 and 76 regarding wildlife are being addressed.

Update: Toni reports that Girl Scouts in town (via contact Suzanne Hale) will be helping to coordinate this effort.

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

Update from Toni: sign is being made for right of way from Phillips Ave to Eismans (between 80 & 86 Phillips Beach Ave) – Public Way, Walk to Sea, with wave icon; also signage for 40 Steps – Rockland and Ingalls – Public Way, Walk to Beach, with seagull icon. Discussion about sustainability of larger sign program, versus few at a time. Discussion about consistent branding for signage throughout town. Reminder to remove schedule/restrictions signage on White Court signage

Action Item: Toni to provide sample signage.

Goal 65 (“Extend National Register status from the Lynn Line to Redington Street.”)
Action Item: Marzie still trying to schedule the meeting with the DCR Commissioner.
Update: none.

Goal 53 (“Find and install additional areas for kayak and small boat storage”)
Mr. Banks stated two RDAs have been submitted to ConCom who will vote on Oct 19th.
Update: none.

Goal 9 (Ensure provision of playground/green space of the same square footage or more on site if property is re-used)
Marzie reached out about logistics and town risk management about possibility of moving playground structure. Toni will send around Con Comm policy for use in public space – ‘passive use’ and what that entails
Action Item: Marzie to provide more info re: moving playground equipment from Hadley to Linscott.

Goal 2 (Determine whether to expand trash/recycling facilities at all locations or implement "carry in/carry out" program)
Tania followed up with Danielle; carry in carry out program did not continue; discussion about creating additional receptacles versus enforcing carry in carry out.
Discussion about correct purview for this issue – Board of Health? DPW? Solid Waste?
Action item: Marzie to contact BOH regarding trash policy at beaches and parks (e.g. carry in/carry out)

5. New Business

Charter/Bylaw Recommendations: A letter on behalf of the OSRPC was sent to the SB on October 30, 2023. A reply was received from David Grishman that they would discuss at the 11/8/23 SB meeting.
Action Item: Tania/Toni to follow up with SB re: Charter/By-Law recommendations.

Vinnin Square guidelines: Tabling discussion for now. OSRPC provided comments to the SC letter dated 11/2/23.

Farmers Market Table: OSRPC will have a table is organizing a table looking to promote its activities and perhaps specifically focus on promoting open space as an option for Hawthorne. Tentatively planning for November 19 indoor market (as October markets are crowded).

6. OSRP Airtable Review

Goal 11: Marzie is working on security meeting/communication with DCR; no update

Goal 12: Investigate and address any open space/conservation encouragement by neighbors. Discussion of adding regular messaging into FB/social

media/tabling/outreach reminding residents about Open Spaces, inviting residents to reach out to OSRPC if they have questions about use of open space/see issues with use.

Action Item: Tania to follow up with Toni about updates on encroachment.

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

Discussion of which committee/group should have oversight.

Action Item: Tania will connect with Tree Committee (Chair Jim O.)

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

Sierra noted that Climate Action Plan also specifies mitigation efforts. Discussion about open space intersection with seawalls/waterfront infrastructure; Johnson Park, Fishermans Beach, Kings Beach. Committee will continue to monitor; will check in early 2024 on status of Kings Beach seawall repairs.

Goal 15: *Acquire conservation restriction to protect open space land in perpetuity*

Update re: Jackson Park: from Marzie – will need to survey the area before Planning Board process initiated for ANR to separate lots and change conservation designation. Currently waiting for funding for the survey; estimate is approx. \$5, 000 - \$ 8, 000.

Action Item: Marzie will follow up with Pete re: funding for the survey.

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”).

Lauren is creating a form to check on engagement at the high school; working with Brian to finalize draft of the survey; aiming to see what interest areas and ownership opportunities students would like to take on. Discussions about early ed/elementary ed project ideas; engagement with local conservation area spaces and species.

8. Memorial/ Monuments policy – Goal 1

Brian is looking at policies from other municipalities and has drafted a policy for memorials/monuments. Has been focused so far on memorials, but discussion about creating advisement about monument/public art recommendation. Timeline is to share draft policy with SB by way of

Action Item: OSRPC members are asked to review and provide feedback to Brian by end of this week (November 17).

9. Property Acquisition – Goals 9 and 43

Hawthorne: update from Marzie to Tania last month. Discussion of priority items and messaging. From Marzie: Our consultant team (HDR) is still processing the information from the last forums. We expect to have a meeting by the end of the year, or very early near year. I will provide to you and update once I have a better understanding of their timeline.

Action Item: OSRPC members are asked to review and provide feedback on article copy. Sierra will share Open Space @ Hawthorne materials at upcoming Farmers Market.

Hadley Property: no update provided; will follow up in December

10. Green Corridor – Goals #72-78

Ongoing discussion about signage for green corridor designation, signage, messaging.

Action Item: Brian will connect with Toni to move forward on signage discussion.

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

Steve updated on question about how to address right of way; discussion about continued action and messaging.

12. Community Development Update – Goals #42, #66, #71, #75

Marzie reports that working on grants for Archer street to improve walking trails and entrances. Announcement that grant funding has been secured for 4 pickleball courts at Phillips Park – funding available July 2024.

Action Item: Sierra to meet with Alexis (Friends of Rail Trail) re: combined efforts around Rail Trail, Safe Routes to School, walking/biking support/infrastructure/safety

13. Swampscott Conservancy update

Updates from Toni. Live birds of prey presentation at UU Church on November 29 at 6:30 pm. List of Winter hikes are up on the SC website. Eagle Scout just about finished with kiosk for Ewing Woods - DPW helped him secure in ground, just doing finishing touches. Stream crossing at Forest River Connector Trail is done, having directional signs to boardwalk made by Gino, will be updating maps.

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

Updates from Sierra. Continuing work on action plan and have provided a list of recommendations for budget priorities re: emissions reductions and climate mitigation.

Lots of outreach over solar, outreach with senior center, looking at more EV charging stations in town.

15. Committee/Department update – Tree Committee

Link to October Minutes: <https://www.swampscottma.gov/tree-committee/minutes/tree-committee-minutes-14> Highlights: Have been engaging in community outreach; working on outreach about microforest; will oversee fall tree planting.

16. Committee/Department update - Conservation Commission

From Toni: ConCom sent a show cause letter to Mission on Bay on why it hasn't submitted a permit application for a long term fix to the seawall yet and to appear at this Thurs' ConCom meeting to explain.

ConCom will also be voting on Adoption of regulations implementing G.L. Chap. 44, §53G, the section of the Mass. G.L. authorizing conservation commissions to require applicants to pay for peer review consultants for services the commission deems necessary to come to a final decision on an application.

Re: question about Linscott playground equipment transfer: from Toni: As noted, Linscott Park is under ConCom management, so will have to come before the ConCom if there is a plan to make changes to the park, such as to the playground equipment. Con Comm rules linked here: [rules_for_linscott_park.pdf](#) (swampscottma.gov)

17. Community Preservation Act

No update.

Action Item: Brian will follow up with Select Board member Grishman.

18. Committee Update: Master Plan

Shauna will be OSRPC rep to Master Plan Committee; committee hasn't met yet.

19. Committee/Department update – Recreation Commission:

No updates.

20. Other business

None.

21. Confirmation of next meeting date

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

Meeting then adjourned.