

## **Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – January 15, 2019 Minutes**

Time: 7:00 – 8:45 PM Location: Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Tania Lillak, Chair; Toni Bandrowicz, Vice Chair; Jim Olivetti, recorder; Richard Smith, Sarah Koch, Sara Hepburn, Angela Ippolito, Planning Board Chair; Danielle Strauss, Recreation Director.

Members Absent: Patrick Jones, Selectman Liaison.

The minutes of the December 11, 2018 meeting were approved.

### Review of previous meeting's action items

- **Idea Exchange:** Tania sent Peter Spellios a letter offering the Committee's assistance in pursuing projects initiated as a result of the Idea Exchange held on December 1.
- **Swampscott Conservancy support:** A Committee letter of support to the Swampscott Conservancy concerning priority items developed from the Idea Exchange was unanimously approved.
- **Beach plantings:** It was decided that to be most helpful to Gino in terms of choosing appropriate beach plantings, the Committee should provide him with a plant list.  
Action Item: Jim will research appropriate native beach plantings and report back to the Committee.
- **Windsor Park:** Danielle reported that there is funding proposed in the Capital Improvement Plan for new playground equipment. She said Windsor Park will be ADA compliant.
- **Land acquisition policy:** Tania has been in discussion with Ron Mendes, who has indicated that creating a land acquisitions policy for the town would be feasible.  
Action Item: Tania will set up a meeting with Mendes to begin this effort.

### AGENDA ITEMS

#### **Stop and Shop Land:**

Toni raised the possibility of Stop and Shop transferring the land across the access road from the Vinnin Square market to the town, as it is unbuildable wetland. Angela indicated that the parcel has recently been rezoned, and that, based on her past experience, the company would not be receptive to donating the property.

Action Item: Toni will raise the topic at the Swampscott Conservancy meeting with Sean Fitzgerald on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **Organic Lawn Management Update:**

Status of the pilot program is unclear to the Committee. Needs follow up.

Action Item: The Committee needs clarification from Gino as to his plans for this project moving forward.

Action Item: MIT institute grant application due April 2019. Not discussed.

#### **Swampscott Conservancy Update:**

Toni reported that she has been in close communication, including a site visit, with a Salem environmental staff member on linking a trail between Forest River conservation land and Swampscott

cemetery.

There is funding proposed in the Capital Improvement Plan for acquiring parcels that abut Foster Pond.

A meeting has been set with Sean Fitzgerald to discuss items on the Swampscott Conservancy letter.

### **Air Table Review Items 31 through 35**

Action Item: Sara will review Amherst Keystone Project and report back to Committee.

Action Item: Angela will provide some visuals from historical archives of gardens that once existed at the Elihu Thompson building in support of the plan for a pollinator garden at town hall.

### **Community Garden update:**

Sarah reported that the group is soliciting memberships and beginning to grow seedlings indoors.

### **Committee/Department update – Conservation**

Toni observed that the work of the Conservation Commission is hampered by the town not having at least a part time conservation agent on staff.

### **Committee/Department update – Planning**

Angela shared a draft harbor plan that she received from Sean Fitzgerald with the Committee.

Action Item: Committee members should take time to review this draft, and think about long term opportunities to develop additional open space along the waterfront.

Angela reminded Committee members of the Smart Growth Zoning meeting to be held January 17<sup>th</sup>.

Action Item: Angela and Jim will report back on any open-space related information from that meeting.

### **Committee/Department update – Recreation**

Danielle reported that there is funding proposed in the Capital Improvement Plan to develop a playground and outdoor pickleball court at Linscott Park.

### **Committee/Department update – Rail Trail**

The Committee expressed uncertainty as to what the status of the rail trail is at this point in time.

### **Task Force update – Tree Advisory:**

Jim will be arranging for a meeting along with other members of the Tree Advisory Group with Ron Mendes at his suggestion to discuss establishing a fund for residents to donate money for tree planting.

### **Other Business:**

The Committee discussed the need to follow closely plans for locating the new elementary school to determine potential impact on town's limited open space.

The next OS&RPC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 12, 2019.