

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – May 8, 2018 Minutes

Time: 7:10 – 8:40 PM Location: Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room

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

Members Absent: Danielle Strauss, Recreation Director;; Pete Kane, Director of Community Development; Patrick Jones, Selectman Liaison.

The minutes of the April 10, 2018 meeting were approved.

Review of previous meeting's action items

- Jim noted that the report on gas leaks in Swampscott as of December, 2017 is now on the heetma.org web site. There were 83 unrepaired leaks identified. He would ask Pete Kane for advice on the possibility of joining neighboring towns' suit against National Grid for damage to street trees from gas leaks. It is possible that the data from the tree inventory could be matched against gas leak locations to further this effort.
- The Committee reviewed and updated five objectives from the Open Space & Recreation Plan. Some further adjustments were made to the display of the Plan on Airtable. It is the intention of the Committee to continue to review at least 5 Plan objectives at each future regular meeting.

AGENDA ITEMS

Town Meeting Action Items – Plastic Bag Ban:

After discussion, a unanimous vote was recorded to support Warrant Article 18: Adoption of Bylaw Prohibiting Plastic Bags.

Action Item: Jim and Toni will prepare a letter to be sent to the Board of Selectmen informing them of the unanimous vote of support and the reasoning behind the vote.

Organic Lawn Management Update:

Sarah reported that the location of the pilot program for organic treatment has been shifted to the practice football field at Phillips Park. She had no further information to report on progress of the pilot program. Angela asked if there have been any benchmarks established to measure success.

Action Item: Sarah will contact Gino to request that before and after photos be taken as part of the pilot, and to discuss the need for there to be success measures specified for the pilot.

Friends of Swampscott Conservation Land:

The organization has a new name, Swampscott Conservancy, and an official logo, designed *pro bono* by James Lawler. A third meeting was held with better attendance than the previous one. Toni is preparing the application to become a 501 c(3) organization. An initial group of directors was appointed.

Community Garden update:

Sarah described a helpful meeting held with the St. Andrew's Church folks about their community garden project. A location for the Swampscott community garden is still being decided. A fundraiser is planned

for this summer, with the possibility of sponsorships for sections of the garden. The new name for the garden has been settled on: Seaside Cooperative Garden of Swampscott.

Committee/Department update – Conservation

Members of the Conservation Commission will be meeting with the Planning Board to discuss preparation of a zoning bylaw change to include climate resiliency planning.

Committee/Department update – DPW

Action Item: Tania will schedule the regular annual update with Gino Cresta on the status of open space goals and objectives.

Committee/Department update – Historical

Richard related that the Historical Commission is in discussion with the developer of White Court about opportunities to conserve architectural elements of the historic building. The conservation easement, which would allow public access to a view of the ocean from the cliff facing the Bay, is still part of the site plan.

Committee/Department update – Planning

Angela informed the Committee of two upcoming site plan reviews for White Court and 133 Puritan Rd. For the latter site, the developer has agreed to preserve the historic building and side building and will add a third building where the tennis court is located, rather than demolishing the existing structures.

Committee/Department update – Recreation- Harold King Forest

Toni represented the Committee at the “Celebrating Harold King Forest” event held on May 6th. The Committee was pleased to see that the event was covered in the *Lynn Item* and the *Swampscott Reporter*.

Committee/Department update – Rail Trail

Jim and Sara attended the public meeting on the rail trail alignment, where options for locating the trail were presented.

Task Force update – Tree Advisory:

Jim reported that three Princeton Elms were planted by DPW along Humphrey Street in front of Hawthorne by the Sea. Additionally, the task force developed a list of acceptable street trees to replace the less than comprehensive one that was on the town web site. The new, expanded list is based on the list of street trees recommended by the MA Department of Transportation.

The next OS&RPC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday June 12, 2018.