

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – June 11, 2019 Minutes

Time: 7:14 PM– 9:20 PM **Location:** Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Tania Lillak, Chair; Marzie Galazka, Director of Community and Economic Development; Angela Ippolito, Planning Board Chair; Sarah Koch; Sierra Munoz, Richard Smith

Members Absent: Toni Bandrowicz, Vice Chair; Danielle Strauss, Recreation Director, Sara Hepburn

1. 7:14 pm meeting opened.
2. Meeting Minutes: minutes of the May meeting were approved with no changes.

Previous Meeting Action Items

- Angela discussed bench at the site for the new pollinator garden with Double D Construction. June 11th a backless bench was added on the site; reviewed by OSRPC members.
- Marzie checked with Gino on “Green Corridor” plan and requested further info; discussion of Open Table Activity #37: Identify green corridor network system to connect open space & recreation facilities (streets and access easements).
 - **Action Item:** Marzie will follow up re: Green Corridor plan with Gino
- Tania reported that she spoke to Peter Spellios and that the BOS is still reviewing the information gathered from the December 2018 “Idea Exchange.”
 - **Action Item:** Sarah Koch will reshare the minutes and notes from the Idea Exchange.
 - **Action Item:** OS&RPC will review Idea Exchange notes at a future meeting and establish relevant Open Table actions.
- Marzie reported out that Toni B (Conservancy) and some Rail Trail representatives walked some of the wetland areas near Stop and Shop; some potential green corridor spaces.

New Items

- Housing Choice Community Initiative: Marzie updated on potential grant opportunity: Swampscott has qualified as a Housing Choice Community (designation for rate of new housing units and housing production best practices) which provides us consideration for additional state grant programs including park and conservation land acquisition.
- Johnson Park Plan: Angela reviewed history to date of Johnson Park Plan: in 2016, Tufts graduate design team worked with Angela, Pete Kane, and town representatives in a public process (hearing in March 2016) to develop a park space plan for Johnson Park on Puritan Road – goals to strengthen coastal resiliency with berms and native plantings and to increase beautification and usability of the space.
 - Purview of OS&RPC through Airtable Action Items #67 and #87

- Potential grant categories for park improvement include coastal zone management, native plant installation, coastal resiliency, land and water conservation funds
- **Action Item:** make a public statement via social media or town site blog stating: OS&RPC is reexamining the landscape design plans for Johnson Park created in collaboration with Tufts and public process, taking into account landscaping improvements to create solutions to coastal resilience issues including storm surge and general best use of open space.
- **Action Item:** Marzie will share existing planning information about Johnson Park with OS&RPC and committee will discuss most salient elements of the plan that should be executed upon
- **Action Item:** Angela will share postcards and historical photos of Johnson Park Space

Airtable Review

- #51 - Develop maintenance and design guidelines for roads, paths, islands, and lighting (add special emphasis on developing design guidelines in Olmsted District).
 - Discussion tabled; moved to low priority.
- #52 Limit impact of (potential) school construction on conservation land.
 - Angela presented options to committee for using existing school spaces in lieu of building on a new site (significant space available on Stanley lot)
 - Committee drafted letter to send to school committee encouraging consideration of the existing elementary school properties and their potential as a new school location, choosing not to eliminate established green space, and noting flood zone considerations
 - Tania moves to send a letter as per revisions made at tonights meeting; pending approval and edits
 - **Action Item:** Tania will send draft via email to full committee for approval then send letter to school committee
- #53 Repair seawall and stairway taking into consideration sea level rise and storm surges (per Beach Management Plan)
 - Work in progress; discussion tabled.
- #54 Eliminate boat storage in parking lot to provide public parking year round
 - Marzie reported that this may the last year there will be boat storage at the site
 - **Action Item:** Marzie to follow up with a report on boat storage.

Review of Agenda Items & Other Action Items

- Train Station: discussion about using blighted building bylaw for improvement
 - Tania moves that OS&RPC does not take on improvement activity related to the train station; Marzie seconds; vote is unanimous.

- Swampscott Conservancy Update: The Conservancy had its Native Plant Sale this past Sunday at Farmer's Market. Between sales of plants and new memberships, the Conservancy made over \$2,000.
 - Conservancy is in the process of scheduling summer and fall activities which will include a speaker on eelgrass.
 - Marzie reports that Nelson Darling has gifted the town \$200 to buy pollinator plants for the pollinator gardens.

- Conservation Commission: In anticipation of receiving a request for a Wetlands Protection permit for the rail trail, the ConCom voted at its last meeting to approve hiring 3rd part consultant to do peer review of Stantec's rail trail plans. They plan to select a consulting firm at their next meeting.
 - Max Kasper (Build Insp.) and Toni visited encroach site in Ewing Woods, saw that no changes had been made and recommended matter be referred to town counsel. (Airtable #10)
 - **Action Item:** Marzie will arrange to send one final cease and desist to encroachment at Ewing Woods.

- Open Gift Fund: We discussed whether the OSRPC could have an Open Gift Fund through the town to fund our projects.
 - **Action Item:** Marzie will speak to appropriate town employee to see if this is possible.

Meeting Adjourned 9:20.

The next OS&RPC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2019.

Minutes taken by Sierra Muñoz