

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – August 20, 2019 Minutes

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

Members Present: Tania Lillak, Chair; Angela Ippolito, Planning Board Chair; Sierra Munoz, Richard Smith; Molly O'Donnell, Assistant planner

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

Visitor: Jackson Schultz, Harbor and Waterfront Advisory Committee

1. 7:14 pm meeting opened.
2. Meeting Minutes: minutes of the July meeting were approved with edits.
3. **Previous Meeting Action Items**
 - **School site selection:** The letter to the School Building Committee regarding open space concerns in site selection has been sent.
 - **Green Corridor:** Marzie will follow up with Gino on “Green Corridor” plan
 - **Ewing Woods encroachments:** cease and desist letter has been sent. Should the town consider a fence?
 - **Gift Fund:** A committee can create a gift fund for a specific project or target.
 - **Tree bylaw draft:** Angela will send comments to Toni Bandrowicz.

Review of Agenda Items & Other Action Items

4. Harbor and waterfront plan: Jackson Schultz discussed the HWAC plan with the Open Space Committee and reviewed the Johnson Park proposal. The items discussed included the following:
 - Bathrooms and changing facilities are desired at all of the beaches.
 - Consideration of food trucks at Phillips Beach
 - The Tufts students’ design for Johnson Park was discussed. This was cited in the HWAC report. Jackson’s comments:
 - Should there be a pullout bay on Puritan Road for dropping people off?
 - Concept of extending the walkway out from the wall
 - Bathroom facilities are needed- could portable bathrooms be rented for the season as a trial and located in the Phillips Park parking area?
 - Funds are available for storm resiliency improvements; Kleinfelder plan lists potential sources.
 - What are the accessibility requirements?
 - A design consultant will need to be engaged. Molly stated that Marzie is obtaining a list of possible consultants.

- Design priorities from Committee members include:
 - Mobility
 - Historic features (exedra bench and tile paving) recalling New Ocean House
 - Ocean views
 - Shade
 - Vegetation ecologically appropriate (salt tolerant), native species
 - Bathroom and changeroom
 - Foot washing station
 - Bike racks
 - Message and information board
 - Dog bag dispenser
 - Coastal and stormwater management (sea level rise) – vegetation berm and rain garden, revetment wall like Beach Bluff Park
 - Open lawn space
 - A cohesive overall design
- Capital request to the Town for Johnson Park funding- Approximately \$1 million. The Town will seek grants or CIP funding to advance the park design and construction. This project would be a good fit for the Land and Water Conservation Grant. Grants are due in the spring and require a 50% match.
- There will be public forums on the Harbor Plan on 23 September and 3 October at the High School 7:30-9PM.
- The first phase may be improvements to the Town pier and floats, Jackson is meeting with the Town Administrator.

5. Airtable Review: deferred to next meeting

6. Bike/scooter sharing: MAPC is opening up a program for bike and scooter sharing for towns to opt in or out. These would be powered bikes, and drivers licenses would be required. Would helmets be required? Safety issues, concerns about use by kids. The Ant bicycle program had issues with bicycles being left all over and blocking sidewalks. Salem is going to have a pilot program- Molly will inquire about how it is going.

7. Open Space and Recreation Plan update: This would need to be done next year; the state requirement is simply to update the 2013 plan. Molly O'Connell will organize this.

8. IDEA exchange notes: Postponed to September meeting. Tania to re-send link from Sarah.

9. Organic lawn care update: There are discussions on social media gathering support for organic treatments. Sarah Koch is looking for members for an organic lawn task force.

10. School Building Committee update: SBC selected the same firm for the new study that did the previous study.

11. Swampscott conservancy update: Toni Bandrowicz away, deferred to next meeting.

12. Rail Trail update: Conservation Commission did a walking tour of the trail this morning to look at the wetlands issues. Public hearing will be on August 29.

13. Tree Advisory Committee: Draft tree bylaw is being circulated. Angela will send comments to Toni Bandrowicz.

14. Community Garden update: Produce is being harvested; Select Board visited today.

15-20: Deferred to September meeting.

Next meeting September 10, 2019.

Notes taken by Richard Smith