

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – September 10, 2019 Minutes

Time: 7:07 PM– 9:20 PM **Location:** Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Tania Lillak, Chair; Toni Bandrowicz, Vice Chair; Danielle Strauss, Recreation Director; Sara Hepburn; Sierra Munoz; Sarah Koch; Richard Smith; Molly O'Donnell, Assistant Planner

Members Absent: Angela Ippolito, Planning Board Chair

1. 7:07 pm meeting opened.
2. Meeting Minutes: minutes of the August meeting were approved with edits.
3. **Previous Meeting Action Items**
 - **Green Corridor:** Marzie will follow up with Gino on “Green Corridor” plan
 - **Ewing Woods encroachments:** cease and desist letter has been sent. Toni received an email from the attorney; Max and Toni are going to go and take a look this week. Town should not consider a fence.

Review of Agenda Items & Other Action Items

4. New business- no new business at this time
5. Interpretive signs for Recreation areas: Group should think about locations that we should highlight with signs; what we are trying to say. Molly is researching funding possibilities (e.g. Mass Humanities).

Discussed highlighting Swampscott's historic and ecology/conservation efforts; perhaps at railroad station; rail trail; Harold King Forest; conservation areas; Jackson Park (history); town beaches. Possibly reach out to DCR to discuss signage at Lynn Shore—how long they last, maintenance. Perhaps signage to highlight the area's Native/First Nation history, and geological history (e.g. Red Rocks). Get an education component by getting high school students involved to research for the signage.

Swampscott Conservancy is putting up signs at middle school about the Meadow Restoration Project.

6. Bike/scooter sharing: No updates from MAPC yet; Molly communicated that Marzie will update us when she gets any MAPC updates re: outstanding questions re: safety issues and how the scooter docking will be managed.
7. Open Space and Recreation Plan update: The state wants us to update public outreach (a community survey; two public hearings/forums) alongside updating goals. It doesn't need to go to town meeting. Molly provided the group with a draft schedule will submission in September 2020 as required. The update keeps us eligible for grants from entities like DCR.

Action Item #1: Molly send everyone Dropbox link to the current Plan to everyone in the group; group members can make notes and edits in Dropbox.

Action Item #2: OSRPC members will go through Appendix I “May Need Revision” and seeing if we need to revise any areas.

8. IDEA exchange notes: Tania resent link from Sarah. The group discussed items in the document that were more relevant to OSRPC: native plants, organic lawn care, more native plants in public spaces; Linscott Park; ensuring ADA compliant to open spaces and recreation areas; increasing street tree canopy (in general and at Phillips Park). Can add some ideas from exchange in the 2020 plan.

Action Item #1: Sara will discuss with tree task force potential trees/creating shade at Phillips Park.

9. Johnson Park: Marzie and Molly will be meeting (9/18) with consultants and doing a site visit to park to get a quote to include in the capital request.
10. Harbor & Waterfront Plan: There will be two community sessions (at high school and Town Hall); information will be disseminated about the sessions soon. After input from public they will most likely revise and meet with other committees (Planning, Conservation Committee, etc.).
11. Organic Lawn Task Force update: Still recruiting members; four people currently. Next meeting 9/25 at Town Hall. Swampscott Conservancy will be sending an email to their listserv. One of the first goals of the Task Force is to survey the town to see interest in organic public lawns and fields.
12. School Building Committee update: Meeting next week; Sarah will attend.
13. Swampscott Conservancy update: Educational activities coming up (Phillips Beach clean-up; nature poetry for kids; speakers on Owls and Turkeys; working on trail head and Gino will help clean up area; Meadow Restoration Project; Pollinator Garden (with possible Monarch waystation)). Membership renewal/signup for 2020 about to begin.
14. Rail Trail update: Only segment (Humphrey Street to Muskrat Pond) needs to apply to Conservation Commission; an application was submitted. Con Comm decided to hire their own consultant to do a peer review of town consultant's plans (using Con Comm monies). A public hearing was scheduled; Town made presentation (no decisions made since Town consultant has not submitted report yet), but residents had opportunity to ask Town consultant questions. National Grid was present, made public comments, and will send comments to Con Comm's consultant. Next public hearing on October 3.

Marzie and Peter Spellios have continued to have meetings with residents.

15. Tree Advisory Task Force: Working on creating a plan to do a tree inventory in house with Molly.
16. Community Garden update: Had recent article. Was asked to participate in the Octoberfest at Town Hall and the Harvest Festival. Will be at the SURE Diversity Festival and the last farmer's market (Halloween). Will possibly open membership for next year at the farmer's market.
- 17-21: Deferred to September meeting.
22. Airtable Review: deferred to next meeting

Next meeting October 8, 2019.

Notes taken by Sara Hepburn