

## Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – October 8, 2019 Minutes

**Time:** 7:10 PM– 8:50 PM    **Location:** Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room

**Members Present:** Tania Lillak, Chair; Toni Bandrowicz; Sarah Koch; and Angela Ippolito, Planning Board Chair

**Members Absent:** Danielle Strauss, Recreation Director; Sara Hepburn; Sierra Munoz; Richard Smith; and Molly O’Connell, Senior Planner

Meeting was opened at 7:10 pm and September 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes were approved.

### Previous Meeting Action Items

- 1) Green Corridor: Marzie will report on at next meeting.
- 2) Update on Ewing Woods encroachment: Toni and Max did a site visit at Kensington Av. and found encroachment still occurring; matter has been referred to Town Counsel to take legal action.

### Review of Agenda Items & Other Action Items

- 3) Review of next five OS&RP objectives on the AirTable:
  - a) #56 (*“Install unified signage at primary facility entrances as well as along connecting paths/roads”*). Discussed two types of signs, interpretative and those that identify open space areas. Decided that this item refers to second type of signs and that a list of where such signs should be installed around town needs to be determined. Noted that there is a list of publicly and privately-owned open space in the OS&RP. Toni mentioned that the DPW has created wooden red signs for the Conservation Commission for Ewing Woods and Harold King and will be doing one for the new Forest River Conservation Area Connector trail (behind the cemetery) and that other conservation land should probably have the same type of sign (which may not be appropriate, given rustic appearance, for all open space in town). Discussed how there had been desire in town to have uniform signage. Angela also mentioned that the Essex Nat’l Heritage Comm. gives grants for signage.  
  
Action Item: Angela volunteered to develop a list of where signs are needed, as well as grant opportunities from Essex Nat’l Heritage.
  - b) #57 (*“Work with Essex National Heritage Commission to create signage along Essex Heritage Scenic Byway indicating points of interest”*) Angela will also look into this type of signage.
  - c) #58 (*“Expand water-related activity programming (boating, water safety, swimming, kayaking, environmental awareness)”*) Discussed how this item is being dealt with through the proposed harbor planning process and in the draft Harbor Plan.
  - d) #59 (*“Develop preservation and management/maintenance plan”*) The OS&RP objective listed the Fish House and Cemetery under this item. The Committee assumed that the reference to the cemetery was to the open space area behind the cemetery that is now the dog park and, given that fact, a plan would not now be necessary for that area. It was unclear as to the reference to the Fish House as there isn’t any open space area of concern nearby. This item was marked as completed.

e) #60 (*"Integrate historical elements as part of signage program"*) These would fall under the category of interpretive signs. Mentioned that Molly/Marzie have been looking into grants for interpretive signs.

- 4) Bike/scooter sharing: Marzie will update the Committee when she gets MAPC draft plan. There are concerns about safety issues and how the scooter docking will be managed.
- 5) Open Space and Recreation Plan update: Molly had sent link to word version of the OS&RP so members could review it. Toni started looking at those sections of plan that the Commonwealth identified as "may need revision." For Section 3 (Community Setting) she provided some comments but noted that for population/demographics/housing, etc., she did not have necessary info to update. Angela will look to see what info is available from Planning. Toni queried whether, after the 2020 census, the OS&RP should update/have an addendum on these items? Toni will be reviewing next section on Environmental topics and get back to the Committee.

Action Item: All member should continue to review OS&RP in particular the "may need revision" section to see whether in fact revisions is needed.

- 6) Johnson Park Update: Marzie did meet with the consultants who reviewed Tufts plan and they will be providing cost estimates.
- 7) Organic Lawn Task Force Update: There was a meeting on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> and another meeting is scheduled in 2 weeks. Trying to get more key players involved and also looking at grants, including one from Stoney Field Yogurt for \$15 - 25K for communities working on organic lawn care. Before next meeting will be touching base with other towns, talking to Gino on what chemicals being used and where, and seeing about getting Green Scholars at SHS involved.
- 8) Swampscott Conservancy Update: Toni noted that a lot is going on, for instance, had a guided hike in Harold King last Sat. that was very successful 25 or more people showed up. Wingmasters live bird presentation will be this Thurs. at the Sr. Ctr.
- 9) Conservation Commission Update: Toni went over the status of the town's application for a permit for that portion of the proposed rail trail that is within the Commission's jurisdiction, explaining how the Commission hired a 3<sup>rd</sup> party consultant to do a peer review of the town's application and the project. A hearing was held on Aug. 29th at which the Town made a presentation and the public and National Grid asked questions/made comments. As the Commission's consultant, Linden Engineering, had not finished its review, the hearing was continued to Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>. As Linden is waiting for a response from Town on question it had as a result of its review of the project, the hearing was again continued to a date that will be within 21 days of when the Commission receives all the necessary information.
- 10) Tree Advisory Update: Toni said that a draft tree bylaw had been drafted but that it may not be ready for the Fall Town Meeting. Angela noted that more process than just attending Select Board meetings was necessary for a bylaw before it could go to Town Meeting, including a public hearing. She will get information on the necessary steps to Toni.
- 11) Community Garden: Sarah said that the garden is winding down for the season, although still some late season crops still growing. They are also building more beds and in process of renewing memberships for next year. At the last Farmer's Market, they will be opening up membership for new members.

12) Planning Update: Angela discussed upcoming items including an Inclusionary Zoning Bylaw amendment process through which funds are collected.

13) Mentioned that the Harbor Plan Forum will be on October 16th and the Fall Town meeting is scheduled for November 18th.

Next meeting will be Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>. Sarah noted that there will be a public hearing on multiple Pesticide bills at the state House in Boston on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup> at 11am:

- H.763 - "An Act to protect Massachusetts pollinators" (Rep. Dykema)
- S.447/H.776 - "An Act empowering towns and cities to protect residents and the environment from harmful pesticides" (Sen. Cyr, Rep. Fernandes)
- H.791 - "An Act relative to improving pesticide protections for Massachusetts schoolchildren" (Rep. Gentile)
- H.792 - "An Act relative to the prohibition of the transfer or use of glyphosate in the Commonwealth" (Rep. Gentile)
- S.499, "An Act relative to the use of glyphosate on public lands." (Sen. Lewis)

Notes taken by Toni Bandrowicz