

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

**Time:** 7:09 PM– 8:45 PM    **Location:** Town Hall, Second Floor Conference Room

**Members Present:** Tania Lillak, Chair; Tonia Bandrowicz; Sara Hepburn; Richard Smith; and Molly O'Connell, Senior Planner

**Members Absent:** Angela Ippolito, Planning Board Chair; Sarah Koch; Sierra Munoz; Danielle Strauss, Recreation Director

Meeting was opened at 7:08 pm.

- 1) Minute taker: Richard Smith.
- 2) Minutes from Nov 12, 2019 were approved.
- 3) Action items from the last meeting:

#61 Stacey Brook: Should Stacey Brook be ConsCom's issue rather than OSRC? Remove from OSRP?

#62 (Establish storm water management plan) is tied to #65 (Investigate and identify pollution runoff). Toni feels the town could beef up the education part of the storm water management program. She suggested that the town join the Greenscapes North Shore Coalition who assist communities in addressing stormwater and water quality issues. Toni is interested in working on this as its both Open Space & ConCom issue.

**Action item:** Toni to investigate Greenscapes.

#64 Vernal pools: The State has updated locations of some vernal ponds, and a letter detailing the changes was distributed by Toni. Vernal pool research, including finding and certifying new vernal pools, could be made part of the High School science programs Or get an organization like Cape Ann Vernal Pool to help <https://www.capeannvernalpondteam.org/> Toni suggested that we should plan for doing something in the spring when pools become active.

- 4) New business: None
- 5) The Tree Advisory Task Force is updating tree objectives. The tree bylaw is in draft; public review and comment could be done as part of an OSRPC regular meeting. Need to identify warrant article deadlines and have town counsel review. There is no advertising requirement. The Town has a new tree warden- Kelly Stevens.

**Action item:** Molly will contact Kelly, Ron, and town counsel.

- 6) Airtable Review- see below.
- 7) Interpretive Signs for Rec Areas: The Historical Commission is also looking at interpretive signage. They met in Nov. with David Gardner, who has volunteered to assist in developing the HC's signage program. Could the two efforts be coordinated? Nancy Schultz from the Historic Commission is recently retired from Salem State and could possibly fill the humanity scholar function.

**Action item:** Richard will contact Marzie (email sent 12/11)

- 8) Bike/scooter share program: No update

- 9) 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan update: All members should continue to review OS&RP in particular the “may need revision” section to see whether in fact revisions is needed. Scheduling a separate meeting in January was discussed.
- 10) Johnson Park: see #67 below
- 11) Phillips Beach Bathhouse: There is an item in the current budget- what does it include? Is this a temporary or permanent structure? Does it include toilets? See item #73 below. The draft letter to the Select Board was discussed; Tania to revise.  
  
**Action item:** Tania to revise letter
- 12) Organic Lawn Management Update: No updates.
- 13) School Building Committee: no update
- 14) Swampscott Conservancy: Will be sponsoring a speakers series on climate change
- 15) Rail trail: ConCom’s consultant is reviewing Rail Trail plans
- 16) Task force update- Tree Advisory: See item 5 above. Serviceberry trees have been ordered to replace the trees along Fisherman’s Beach. New sidewalks will also be installed. Dead trees on the south side of Humphrey Street will be replaced in the spring with elms. It was suggested that rain gardens could be installed at new trees. 10 trees were replanted after October storm. The town will be updating GIS tree data- could be an intern project. Town is applying for a grant for a tree risk survey, and will give input to the Open Space plan.
- 17) Community Garden: No update
- 18) Machon School: Comment on path to Phillips Park was given to the Community Development office.
- 19) Conservation: waiting on Rail Trail review
- 20) Planning: Angela not present- no update
- 21) Recreation: Danielle not present- no update
- 22) Grants: no updates

#### **Airtable objectives review**

- #66 Wildlife corridors:* Ongoing, about preserving habitat. Tie to Harold King Forest plan. Connects to #37 and 92.
- #67 Johnson Park landscaping:* Working on funding landscape design; town has a proposal from CBA Landscape Architects.
- #68 Invasive plants:* Tree Task Force to contact Public Works.
- #69 Steps and path to High School:* This has been determined to be infeasible.

*#70 Improve parking at conservation areas:* There is no place for parking at Foster Pond; DPW could mark parking spaces at the Harold King trail head

*#71 Acquire trail to High School from Aggregate Industries:* Combine #29, 45 and 71 in 2020 plan

*#72 Blytheswood easement:* Combine with #44 and 86 for 2020 plan; developer has expanded easement on White Court side and is to install benches and signage.

**Action item:** Molly to check on status.

*#73 Incorporate amenities at beaches:* Harbor Plan referenced. Temporary or permanent facilities? Will this be a Chapter 91 review due to rising sea levels? Town has allocated \$25,000 for design and permitting assistance. Are composting toilets required because of lack of sewers (Phillips Beach)?

*#74 Have DCR take over management of King's Beach:* No progress. Need to have seawall repaired before State would consider doing that.

*#75 Marian Court:* Gone

*#76 DDT contamination at Foster's Pond:* Not required. ConCom to take lead on issues of contamination, including fertilizer runoff from lawns.

*#77 Develop tree replacement plan:* Ongoing, being completed by the Tree Task Force.

*#78 Reduce pesticide use:* Ongoing

*#79 Rehabilitate buildings:* Completed

*#80 Develop access to Palmer Pond:* Committee feels this is not the best use of public funds. Delete.

*#81 Winter access options to Tedesco Country Club:*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Next meeting date: January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Notes taken by Richard Smith