

Open Spaces & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting

January 14, 2020

Members Present: Tania Lillak, Richard Smith, Sarah Koch, Sierra Munoz, Sara Hepburn, Danielle Strauss, Recreation Director, Molly O'Connell, Senior Planner

Sierra Munoz moves to call the meeting to order; Sara Hepburn seconds. All approves.

Minutes: Approval of minutes from December 10, 2019

Sierra Munoz moves to approve the minutes with minor corrections to Members Present

Action items from December 2019 Meeting:

-Item #61 Stacey Brook: Should Stacey Brook be ConCom's issue rather than OSRC? Remove from OSRP? Item has been closed out. No action item.

-Item #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. - Table for February meeting.

-Item #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.

-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.

Update: Molly has contacted all with the exception of town counsel; update will be sent as part of packet.

Discussion of procedure for warrant - Molly will coordinate with Allie (Administrative Support for Sean)

-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)

-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 - Airtable Review later in minutes.

#68 Invasive plants: -Tree task force to ask Gino to cut out invasives:

Action Item: Sara Hepburn will contact Gino re: invasives

#72 Blytheswood easement: No updates.

New Business: None

Airtable Review

#81: Winter access options to Tedesco Country Club: discussion of ongoing public use of spaces; general tolerance by staff for individual recreational use (anecdotal, dog walking seems fine), but discussion of potential for getting formal permission. If there is formal permission given, then there is a liability issue on the part of the CC. Consensus to remove item from activity plan.

#82: Work with MBTA to replace bus stop shelter with well designed shelter: update is that it was recently replaced. Consensus to remove item from activity plan.

#83: *Add a "vista point" at view of ocean at Harald King Forest.* Molly updates about ongoing granting efforts to improve forest access - Forest Stewardship Plan - proposal for information and assessment from forestry expert to move forward with forest improvement. Vista point would not provide great views and not enough space for an outlook. Consensus to remove item from activity plan.

#84: Identify areas for potential acquisition (potential for Town to gain right of first refusal for acquisition purposes) - behind Windsor Park, along the pond - in progress.

Action Item: Tania will update in Airtable.

#85: Improve tennis and basketball courts: tennis courts have been improved; remaining courts may be in a capital improvement plan.

Action Item: Tania will update in Airtable.

#86: Investigate options to improve open space and public access: combine with #44 and #72 for 2020 plan. Has been updated..

#87: Plant coastal-worthy trees without blocking water views (shade, aesthetics, stormwater control): tree task force has discussed; Sara Hepburn reports that Tree Task Force will take into account coastal-worthy trees in planting plan, so recommended removing from OS plan. 'Completed' in terms of creation of Tree Task Force.

Discussion of creating separate list of ongoing larger items for criteria for future actions. Molly is pulling these for the 2020 plan and will check with OS.

#88: Purchase vacant land on south side for potential public access: combine with #84

#89: Reinstall rose garden: completed in the form of the Pollinator Garden, installed Summer 2019.

#90: Ensure City of Lynn completes necessary CSO work to eliminate source of bacteria: Lynn is under an existing consent decree separate from ours and not in our jurisdiction. Consensus to remove item from activity plan.

#91: Establish a winter salt management program to protect open space & natural resources (alternative to salt): Tania has spoken with DPW about this; currently using a sand/salt mix in town. Consensus to keep on the plan.

#92: Connect with Salem Woods via potential easement through Aggregate Industry- owned land: no progress; some through way currently exists but not sure ownership. Keep on the plan.

#93: Completed; Tania has notes from Gino.

Action Item: Tania will update.

#94: Repair seawall taking into consideration sea level rise and storm surges: ongoing. Keep on 2020 plan. Combine with #13

Action Item: Tania will update.

#95: Develop brochure on human interaction with wildlife: would be a great grant item or public education campaign for Swampscott Conservancy or other org. Potential collaboration with Conservancy, look for existing materials that can be adapted. Keep on plan.

#96: Establish understory plantings on cliff (Howland Park): nearby plantings and clearing has been completed. Specific item has been completed. Might need a more general action item: evaluation of park plantings, pruning and maintenance of parks and keep a list of improvement we would like to see.

#97: Install boardwalk and viewing platform with signage: combine with #80

2020 Plan Survey Input Request

Molly distributed draft of OS&RPC Survey; email her directly with any input.

Updates from Marzie:

Green Corridor: Discussion: do we have a list of priorities for connections that OPRC would like to implement? OSRPC should decide which streets, connections, to start

Ewing Woods: Town counsel is working on a settlement. Once finalized Marzie will forward a copy of the settlement to you. ConCom and Building Department have been working on this.

Johnson Park: Requested \$67K for engineering costs as part of the CIP. If not funded, will seek PARC grant funds. In the past, grant proposals were due in April and July. Marzie will still go ahead and seek funding.

Phillips Beach: Town was awarded a grant \$365K from the Municipal Voluntarily Program (MVP) for work at beach entrances at Phillips and Cassidy Beach for mitigate climate change. Marzie hopeful that these funds can assist us to determine the feasibility of a bath house at Philips. Kleinfelder is the consultant that will work with us on this project and this work will begin now. We will go out to bid on construction.

For discussion: Angela said there is a building structures by-law that she will find for us.

Housing Choice: Grant request for \$250,000 for the rail trail project submitted in July 2019; we were not funded this round. Marzie plans to contact DHCD to discuss our application for feedback regarding our proposal and recommendations for next round.

Rail Trail: Our grant amendment request was approved. We are moving forward with finalizing the easement waivers and will bid the project once that is completed. The goal is to complete the work on the first segment by June 30, 2020 as funds expire from Mass Trails on that date. Need to share with NGrid before this is made public.

Still working with ConCom on the middle school segment.

Machon School Plan Update: Granite markers will be installed on Burpee Road near the path to Jackson Woods and Jackson Park.

Able to save bigger tree close to Jackson Park.

Marzie obtaining cost to relocate dogwood tree.

Need update on other tree beside school.

Need update on tree beside path.

Marzie to send list of plantings to us.

A green roof will not be part of the design as the AC units will be on the roof.

There will be a retaining basin for stormwater. Porous pavement not part of the plan for parking lot.

Phillips Beach bath house (#73)

-States laws exist restricting coastal zone building; additionally, this is conservation land.
Additional updates needed to the draft.

Task Force update – Tree Advisory

-By-law will be on February Agenda for review - public meeting

Task Force update – Organic Lawn Management update (#78)

-Task Force received list of chemicals currently being used for lawn maintenance and are working with Chip Osborne on public education and approaching town boards.

Task Force update – School Building Committee (#5, 52, 75)

-OS should add an addendum to the letter we submitted informing about the existing reduced use regulations (flood zone, activities use limitation) -

Swampscott Conservancy update

-no updates

Rail Trail Update: first segment (Marblehead to Beach Bluff) is ready to begin construction. Easement agreements are close to completion. First segment needs to be completed by June 2020

Motion