

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting - AUGUST 11, 2020

Members Present: Tania Lillak (Chair), Tonia Bandrowicz (Vice Chair), Richard Smith, Sarah Koch, Sierra Muñoz, Molly O'Connell (Senior Planner), Angela Ippolito, Danielle Strauss (Recreation Director)

Not present: Verena Karsten, Marzie Galazka (Dir Community & Economic Development)

Meeting called to order at 7:09 by Tania Lillak.

Minute taker: Toni B.

1. July 14, 2020 Minutes: Toni made, Sarah seconded, and the Committee unanimously approved a motion to adopt the July 14, 2020 minutes.
2. Stormwater/Greenscapes: Toni has still been unable to reach the contact at Greenscapes to discuss having the town join the coalition.
3. Harold King Forest Entrance – Toni heard that lines marking parking spots had been painted by the DPW.
4. Wood Duck Boxes: Toni reported that Verena, who is planning to install Wood Duck boxes in Harold King Forest (which is one of the DCR Forest Stewardship plan recommendations), has been in touch with Salem Conservation Commission Agent as the location for the boxes is over the town boundary line and in Salem. Installation will not occur until winter when water freezes over.
5. Street Closures: Molly reported that a discussion about street closures for events will not happen this year, but is put off until next year.
6. **ACTION ITEM** - Green Corridor: Tania and Toni plan to work on a draft policy but have not had the opportunity to do so yet.
7. Phillips Beach Bath House: Phillips Beach permanent structure is likely off the table but no further news since last meeting.
8. 2020 OSRPC Plan:
 - Molly reported that she and Sierra had been at the Farmer's Market and people had filled out surveys. She noted that the survey period will end this coming Friday.
 - Molly has done some editing of the plan and hopes to get another draft to the Committee by end of next week. Goal is to get a draft to the planning board by Sept. 14th and Select Board in time for its 2nd meeting in Sept. She's also in the process of updating the Air Table.

9. "0" Archer Street: No further updates on potential to purchase property for open space. Marzie was going to contact seller about a right of first refusal.
10. Johnson Park: No update on Johnson, but Molly noted that the town had applied for a PARC grant for Windsor play yard, and should find out if town is awarded the grant in Oct.
11. Tree Task Force: No update as Verena not present.
12. Presentation by Christina Colella (from Sch. Build. Comm.):
 - o Committee is talking to groups in town to get feedback on the remaining proposals: Options 1 and 2 (K-4 at Hadley Sch.), Options 3 and 4 (Grades 3-5 at Hadley and Middle School, respectively), and 7a and 7b (K-4 at Stanley Sch.)
 - o After Christina's review of the Options, the Committee asked questions and raised certain concerns.
 - o For the Middle Sch. (tennis courts) the Committee questioned where the rail trail and Muskrat Pond were in relation to the proposed school, as well as the fact that there is no place to relocate the tennis courts.
 - o For Stanley School, the Committee raised concerned over the drop off locations and ensuring protection of Ewing Woods.
 - o Christina will be sending the Committee traffic maps having better information on location of the Options.
 - o The plan is to have design option reviews on Aug. 25 and Sept. 8 and then a presentation of the preferred option on Sept. 22.
13. Committee/Department update – Conservation Commission
 - o No update.
14. Task Force update:
 - o Sarah reported that the Select Board unanimously supported the organic lawn plan at the July meeting but noted that to avoid overlap, suggested involvement by the Athletic Field Committee. Concern was raised since mission of that Committee is different from Open Space and, since it has not been dealing with the issue, would be starting from scratch. Rather, the Task Force, which is part of the OS&RP Committee, should continue to work on it. Sarah had spoken to Polly T. who was going to talk to Peter S. Toni suggested Sarah send an email to Polly confirming their conversations and need for organic lawn care to remain under the purview of the Task Force. Angela suggested voting to have the Task Force be a subcommittee of the OS&RP Committee. Sarah and Tania said they had been working on a letter to send the Select Board which they will forward to the Committee.

VOTE: Committee unanimously voted to send to send a letter to the Select Board explaining the need to have the Task Force continue coordinating the organic lawn plan.

- Sarah also wants to raise with the town the need to have transparency on when chemical spraying is occurring and that chemicals remain in the soil for long periods of time. Suggested accomplished this by having signs posted and information disseminated via town systems for notifying residents. She like to have a proposal to present to the town on this.
- It was noted that spraying was occurring while people were at Upper Jackson.
- Molly said that the town was waiting to hear about grant proposal that was submitted.

15. Swampscott Conservancy: Hoping to have ribbon cutting for the new Forest River Conservation Area Trailhead (behind the cemetery near the dog park) in the Fall.

16. Rail Trail – Hope to have a ribbon cutting on the section that was completed (Beach Bluff Avenue to the Marblehead).

17. Committee/Department update (Historical Commission) - Hope to have prototypes soon for 4 signs (cemetery, Olmsted, Fish House, and one other place). Historical Comm. is coming up with what the signs will say, final design will be by the vendor (for e.g. of what the sign may look like, see Derby Wharf in Salem). Molly noted that they had gotten a separate grant for signs and that Marzie is coordinating with Historic Commission.

18. Committee/Department update (Plannning) – Working on update of Master Plan.

19. Committee/Department update (Recreation) – Working on programming as best they can.

20. Confirmation of next meeting date – Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.