

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – November 24, 2020

Members Present: Tania Lillak (Chair), Richard Smith, Sierra Muñoz, Tonia Bandrowicz (Vice Chair), Verena Karsten, Angela Ippolito (Planning Board Rep)

Not present: Molly O’Connell (Senior Planner), Danielle Strauss (Recreation Director), Marzie Galazka (Dir Community & Economic Development)

Visiting: Michele Barden (prospective member)

Public: Gayle and Ken Stoll- abutters to Johnson Park

Meeting called to order at 7:10 by Tania Lillak.

1. **Minute taker:** Richard Smith
2. **Introductions:** Tania introduced Michelle Barden, who is interested in joining the Committee. She is an environmental scientist who works for the EPA and a Swampscott resident. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Select Board that she be appointed to this Committee.
3. **Approval of October 27, 2020 Minutes:** Committee unanimously voted to adopt the Oct 27, 2020 minutes. Toni moved to accept, Richard seconded.
4. **Johnson Park:** Gayle and Ken Stoll were present representing the neighbors to the park. They communicated neighbor concerns about developing the park with features that would not be able to withstand winter storms, and they think the storms will destroy anything that stands up. They want it to be an open space, with unbroken lawn areas and plantings limited to low shrubs, and that everything be simple and easy to care for. They are objecting to trees. Committee members expressed concern about addressing the needs of the town as a whole and about not making any shade available. Angela reiterated her concerns that the plans do not address the serious coastal resiliency features that were the focus of earlier redesign efforts. Plans must be designed with more focus on resiliency, berms, seawall repair.
ACTION ITEM: Tania will follow up with Marzie on town preferences and design direction.
5. **New business –**
6. **Swampscott Television Visioning Committee:** Tania is currently listed as the OSP rep; could Michelle take this on once she is approved by the Select Board?

7. **2020 OSRP:** Tom Groom contacted Marzie about the map in the plan draft that indicates a plan to acquire beach property adjacent to Palmer Pond. He recently purchased #10 Palmer Road, which includes a section of the barrier beach. GIS mapping is unclear on the ownership of this; further research is needed. Is the pond conservation land? Who owns it? Under state law there cannot be construction on a barrier beach. Toni will follow up on conservation commission issues, Angela on ownership issues.
ACTION ITEM: Tania will follow up with Marzie on this issue.
8. **Green Corridors update:** No update
9. **Community Development update:** Marzie is absent; no update
10. **School Building Task Force update:** No update this week; School Building Committee is meeting next week. Consider setting up a combined meeting with the SBC, the Conservation Commission, the Sustainability Committee, and the OSRPC.
11. **Tree Advisory Committee update:** Verena has been researching memorial tree locations and the memorial trees on the Town Hall grounds. There were originally 45 memorial trees, the plaques for 10 remain. Future memorial tree locations- possibly Swampscott cemetery? Richard suggested replacing trees that have been lost in the old part of the cemetery. There is not a well developed process for prioritizing replacement of the heritage trees at town hall; the TAC is trying to update this. Seeking grant requests for replacements. There is a new platform for redoing the Town tree inventory. Could this be a summer intern project next year?
12. **Organic Lawn Management Update:** No update.
13. **Swampscott Conservancy Update:**
14. **Conservation Commission update:** ConCom approved the Cassidy Beach entrance; Preston Beach is being finished.
15. **Rail Trail update:** The next section is starting construction
16. **Historical Commission update** (Richard): Nothing to report this month.
17. **Planning Board update:** (Angela): Town is monitoring the proposal for the Elm Place property (Bruce Paradise owned) working with Winn Group on development plan for affordable housing units, working with AHT and SHA, plan will include connection from Stetson Ave over or under rail trail.
18. **Recreation Committee/Department update:** (Danielle) No update

19. **Grants:** Marzie is absent; No updates

Next Meeting: December 8, 2020

Adjournment: Motion by Sierra second by Richard. adjourned at 8:55pm