

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – June 14, 2016, Minutes

Time: 7:05 PM – 8:40 PM **Location:** Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Mary Webster, Jim Olivetti, Toni Bandrowicz, Tania Lillak, Richard Smith & Sarah Pruett, Planning Board Chair; Angela Ippolito

Ex-Officios Absent: Town Planner; Pete Kane, Recreation Director; Danielle Strauss

Mary brought the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Toni made a motion to approve the May 25, 2016 minutes. Angela second. Approved.

Toni shared an article on Permeable Pavement. This will be added to; Supporting Facts for Open Space.

Pam Angelakis will be attending our Aug. 9 meeting to share her thoughts on the school configuration and buildings. We have an Open Space Plan that was adopted by the state and passed at Town Meeting. Goals #48, 49, 52 & 104 reiterate preserving, protecting and expanding open space.

Tania will construct a list of relevant open space action items. The Master Plan states, "Because limited open space exists in town, preserving and maintaining existing resources is of the utmost importance."

Reviewed ways to be proactive: -Going to Selectmen meetings, being involved with the Master Plan on a regular basis, entering articles in the paper, Face book page, Establish Friends of Ewing Woods, share info with For the Love of S'scott.

Mary will send the Greenwood Ave letter below to the Selectmen.

Humphrey Street improvements include separate bike lanes on both sides, bike racks and safer sidewalks with bump outs. The improvement run from the Lynn line to the Fish House.

Tufts students have finished their concept for Johnson Park. They will give a presentation at our next meeting.

Rail Trail – Jim's email:

1. The abutter survey is not complete. It was not clear to the RTIC if the missing data for 50% of the abutters was due to blocks that were not surveyed, residents refusing to respond, or completed forms not yet entered into the software. The RTIC was waiting for Pete K. to return to work to find out.
2. Peter Spellos attended the first part of the meeting and encouraged the RTIC to move ahead with the physical planning for the trail, saying that he and the selectmen are moving forward on the legal side of things. He also said that the RTIC should let the selectmen know what additional resources they need to plan the trail and encouraged them to expand their committee as needed with volunteers with specific "skill sets".

3. To that end, the meeting was well attended and included two architects volunteering their services (not counting Richard) as well as Tania's husband Brett who has experience developing a rail trail in another community.
4. A couple of interesting notes on the cost of the trail came out in discussion..... apparently several local landscaping/construction companies have offered to support the construction of the trail; if the town provides National Grid with what it needs on its end to move ahead, it will lease the right of way to Swampscott for 99 years for \$1.00.
5. The next step will be a public "technical meeting" with volunteer architects and others with relevant technical experience to review maps and other information the RTIC has collected over the years to begin the process of developing a site plan for the trail. This meeting will take place, June 29, Wed., 2nd Floor Conf Rm, Town Hall.

Will Town write a response to the Boston Globe article, "The Stink at King's Beach"?

Toni will present the Harold King Forest Land Management Plan to Con Com for approval. The beach fires and Con Com's jurisdiction were discussed.

For our July meeting, bring in Supporting Facts for Open Space. These facts will be used in a presentation to the BoS and for a Town Meeting presentation. The Master Plan Years 1-3 and ongoing, will be reviewed.

The Essex Heritage Byway signs are up and looking good.

CPA?

At 9 PM Jim made a motion to adjourn, Sarah second. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Pruett, Secretary

Dear Chairman Dreeben:

I am writing as Chair of the Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan (OS&RP) Committee regarding the future of the Greenwood Avenue School property. We understand that the Board of Selectmen is planning to further discuss options for the property including proposing a warrant article at this year's Town meeting to rezone the property as a Planned Development District (PDD).

Given the undeniable importance of open space to providing a healthy living environment for the residents of Swampscott, we believe it is essential that, in all cases involving the redevelopment of town-owned property (such as the Machon School and Greenwood Avenue school properties), the Town first consider the suitability of using the entire parcel for passive or active open space. At a minimum, however, the Town should *always require* that a portion of the property be reserved for open space and public access. Moreover, the Town needs to put in place design guidelines for the redevelopment of any town-owned properties to ensure that a sense of openness is maintained in the area and the character of the neighborhood safeguarded.

Our Committee plays a key role in representing the best interests of the Town through the implementation of the OS&RP -- including the plan's primary goal of expanding and improving open space and recreational facilities in the Town. For that reason, we believe the OS&RP Committee should have the opportunity to participate in the crafting of both the PDD Bylaw and any subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Greenwood Avenue School property. Representatives from the OS&RP Committee plan to attend the public hearing for the PDD Bylaw on April 25th. In the future, we request the opportunity to participate in the development of any resulting RFP for the property.

We look forward to working with the Board of Selectmen and other Town entities to ensure that goals of the OS&RP are met and open space preserved in our community.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Mary Webster, Chair
OS&RP Committee