

## **Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – December 11, 2018 Minutes**

Time: 7:03 – 8:30 PM Location: Town Hall, Second Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Tania Lillak, Chair; Toni Bandrowicz, Vice Chair; Jim Olivetti; Richard Smith Clerk pro tem; Sara Hepburn; and Sarah Koch.

Absent: Danielle Strauss, Recreation Director; Angela Ippolito, Planning Board Chair; and Patrick Jones, Selectman Liaison.\*

The minutes of the regular meeting November 13, 2018 were approved.

### Review of previous meeting's action items

#### **Action items:**

- Tania contacted Danielle re: Windsor park and ADA accessibility, but had not heard back
- Tania contacted Ana re: policy on acquiring land (goal 29); Ana emailed back and cc'd with Ron Mendes; Ron said he would be in touch.
- Tania contacted Bob Powell re: age committee (Swampscott for All Ages); has yet to hear back.

### AGENDA ITEMS

#### **Swampscott Idea Exchange Recap**

Sabrina Coplton and Sarah Koch were facilitators for which Beautification, Culture, and Recreation. Submitted synopsis to Peter Spellios. Idea highlights included a town outdoor pool; community center; bringing back the ice hockey rink at Clarke School; historical markers with descriptions; rotating outdoor art installations; Johnson Park at Eiseman's Beach (adding comfort station or bath house); increasing tree canopy; more use of Ewing Wood or Harold King Park; continued organic lawn care; accessibility and cleanup of Foster's pond; accessible open spaces.

**Action Item:** Tania going to write a email to Peter Spellios asking for next steps and how can the Open Space committee can help facilitate.

#### **Organic Lawn Management Update:**

Tania and Sarah met with Gino and asked him to continue with the pilot program; he is still concerned about how it will fare with the sports fields' use. Organic lawn care will continue on the same field for the next three years, as long as funding is available; unclear about whether it will be expanded to other fields. Board of Heath and Conservation Commission to send letters of support to Sean Fitzgerald, Daniel Strauss, and Gino Cresta.

**Action Item:** Tania will send follow-up email to Gino regarding conversation they had.

**Action Item:** MIT has an institute that provides monies to reduce chemicals; potential grant for continued organic lawn care. Further research of the grant is needed (April 2019 submission date).

#### **Swampscott Conservancy:**

The November 19 letter from the Swampscott Conservancy was reviewed. A trailhead for the Forest River Conservation Area has been proposed. The SC has met with Gino and will be talking to representatives from Salem.

SC wants Swampscott to acquire some of the open space at Foster Pond; SC needs to get town support to approach Aggregate for a potential easement.

**Action Item:** Open Space/Tania will respond to SC letter. Letter will include telling the SC to coordinate with Historic Commission so that garden is appropriate for the historic nature of the building; and will communicate to SC that it is happy to work with SC to coordinate list of native plants.

### **Community Garden update:**

Sign is up at Bertram House, and it will be at BH for the next three years. Currently trying to increase membership and donations from individuals and businesses.

### **Committee/Department update – Conservation:**

Toni reports that ConCom is still busy with filings.

### **Committee/Department update – DPW:**

Tania reported that there is still no town planner. The DPW budget for the next year includes decorative lighting and beach entrances. Dog park needed more help than anticipated clearing land for dog park, next steps are the installation of signs for the dog park and fencing. Gino wants some Open Space input for the designs for plantings for the beach entrance.

**Action Item:** Tania will follow-up with Gino regarding plantings for beach entrance; emphasizing the need for native plants.

### **Committee/Department update – Historical Commission:**

MBTA is getting proposals for railroad depot; proposals due in December. Hopefully, the town will be able to comment. Swampscott got some monies for repairs from last winter's storm, including for the Fish House, but HC is still unclear how the monies will be distributed.

### **Smart Growth- Overlay District**

Angela is at the Overlay District meeting (taking place at the time of this meeting); more transit-oriented development. Tonight is the first forum; second forum is January 17, and then there will go to BOS, then Planning Board town meeting before going to Town Meeting. Update to follow.

### **Harbor Plan**

Postponed, in Angela's absence, to January meeting

### **Recreation**

No update- Danielle absent

### **Rail trail**

No update

### **Task Force update – Tree Advisory:**

Richard Smith has transcribed the planting list for the Olmsted District from the Olmsted National Historic Site (National Park Service) into Word. Most of the plantings on the list are shrubs; there are a few key trees on the list (usually large shade trees) that Gino should focus on if he needs to replace trees in the Olmstead.

The next OS&RPC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2018.  
Minutes respectfully submitted by Sara Hepburn.