

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting MINUTES - January 10, 2023

Members Present: Tania Lillak (Chair), Toni Bandrowicz (Vice Chair), Richard Smith (Historical Commission), Steve Banks, Sierra Muñoz, Brian Longin, and Brian Drummond

Members Absent: Danielle Strauss (Recreation Director), Verena Karsten (Tree Committee), and Angela Ippolito (Planning Board)

Town Representative: Marzie Galazka (Community & Econ. Develop.)

Meeting called to order and recording started at 7:04 pm

1. **Minute taker assignment:** Toni Bandrowicz

2. **Public Comment:** None

3. **Approval of minutes from December 13, 2022:** Ms. Muñoz moved to approve, Mr. Smith seconded, unanimously approved.

4. **Updates on Action Items from last meeting's minutes:**

Goal 1: (*"Determine size, scale, and number of monuments along mall..."*) This item was discussed later during the meeting.

Goal 46: (*"Develop and Implement OSRPC Policy for Town Improvement projects..."*) as relates to signage. This item was also discussed later during the meeting.

Goal 49: (*"Expand and improve public sidewalks along popular walking routes, especially Humphrey Street"*) Are Jersey barriers a permanent feature of the landscape? Could there be standards developed for sidewalk improvements?

Action Item: Ms. Ippolito not present so there was no update on this Action Item; discuss at next meeting.

Goal 51: (*"Explore feasibility of programmed area for beach activities, such as volleyball nets, and implement results."*)

Action item: Ms. Strauss not present so no update on this Action Item; discuss at next meeting.

Goal 53. (*"Find and install additional areas for kayak and small boat storage"*) Mr. Banks had initial discussions with Gino Cresta (DPW Director) who is amenable to having more kayak storage, but having difficulty finding a place for the racks given abutter resistance to potential sites. Questions if it would be possible to put in right of way to beach, such as that at Whale Beach?

Action Item: Mr. Banks will be talking with Mr. Cresta further on this matter.

5. New Business

None

6. OSRP Airtable Review - Previous

Goal 63: (*“Investigate feasibility of an ADA accessible path”*). This was discussed later in the meeting in conjunction with **Goal # 70**.

Goal 64: (*“Examine public access and programming potential” - at Foster Pond*) There is a small piece of land that is off Windsor Ave. at the dam end of the pond that is owned by the Town. Ms. Galazka is looking for state grants to have a consultant do a design plan for the path from the road to the pond that is ADA accessible. Ms. Bandrowicz suggests that at some point should see if the resident that owns the property at lot #151 would put a conservation restriction on that piece of their property that abuts the pond and is next to the town owned land.

Action Item: Marzie to continue working on grant/CIC funding for design plans.

Goal 65: (*“Extend National Register status from the Lynn Line to Redington Street.”*)

Confirmed that most of the seawall repairs have been done, which was a prerequisite to DCR considering taking over maintenance of the Swampscott side of King’s Beach. Ms. Bandrowicz recalls that she may have sent correspondence to Sen. Crighton on this matter and suggests contacting newly elected Rep. Jenny Armini as her predecessor, Lori Ehrlich, had been involved in this matter. It was recalled that Town was looking into having the property listed on the Nat’l Register; Ms. Ippolito may have some info on that effort. Ms. Galazka mentioned that the new landscaping had been damaged due to the recent storms and may need to be repaired in the Spring. Ms. Galazka also noted that there are grants for coastal resilience that Town could apply for either for Kings Beach or Johnson Park. Mr. Drummond questioned whether the seawall needs to be 3 feet higher because of storms, but Mr. Smith notes that may present issues with Historical Comm., and it would also have to be evaluated whether raising the height would increase flooding in neighborhood.

Action Item: Toni will check on whether previous correspondence sent to state legislative contacts and Tania will follow up on status of seeking Nat’l Register listing.

OS&RP Airtable Review – New

Goal #66: (*“Install unified signage at primary facility entrances as well as along connecting paths/roads”*) Regarding wayfinding signage, Town hiring a company to do “branding” for signs did not make it on the December Special Town Meeting but will be on the Spring Town Meeting warrant. Once a “brand” is developed, can make signs for parks, rights of way, green corridor, etc. Ms. Bandrowicz

notes that Town is also developing interpretive signs for White Court; she will continue to work with Ms. Galazka on that. Moved this item to new “Parking Lot” section below for future longer term action.

Goal #67: (*“Develop a program for a high school student to join the OSRPC each year”*). Mr. Longin reports that his new student contact, Samuel Snitkovsky, indicated there was not much student interest before the holidays in assisting OS&RP Comm. but he will be reaching out to him again later in the month, as well as trying to find an administrative contact to coordinate with. Ms. Muñoz notes that both Samuel and Yaroslava, the student who has been involved with OS&RP Comm., are now on the Climate Action Plan Comm. which may take up their time.

Goal #68: (*“Develop and execute a plan for education in schools about the importance of open space and Town resources”*). There was some discussion on the intent of this goal – is it solely to educate students on value of open space, or to inform them of existing town open space, or both. Ms. Bandrowicz notes that Conservancy, in its comments to the Town and its consultant re the new elementary school, had proposed that an environmental curriculum be developed that used Ewing Woods for outdoor activities. Ms. Muñoz proposes that need to see what programs exists now, what programs would be helpful to teachers, and how proposing a program would fit in with current curricula. Ms. Bandrowicz questions if could have one-time presentations to students and Mr. Longin mentioned possibility of incorporating something into summer day programs the Town runs.

Action Item: As noted in **Goal #67**, Mr. Longin will be trying to coordinate with school administrators, including Mr. Norkin (at High School) and Mr. Calichman (Middle Sch. Principal).

Goal #69: (*“Develop and publish information on human interaction with wildlife”*) Town had approached Dan Proulx (former Town Animal Control Officer and currently wildlife rehabilitator) to create a brochure, but he has not yet, done so. He did however, in a partnership of the Conservancy and Town, put on presentation about interaction with wildlife. This talk was taped by the Town. Additionally, the Conservancy is working with Mr. Proulx to do another talk, this time focusing on coyotes. It was also mentioned that several years back, the Conservancy had a state Fish & Wildlife representative give a presentation on coyote interaction. The question was raised as to what actions, if any, the Town is taking regarding the coyote situation. It was suggested that the OS&RP Comm. could make available information on living with coyotes.

Action Item: Marzie will check on Dan Proulx on both the brochure and his planned second presentation on coyotes as well as seeing if Town can put the taped presentations by both him and Fish & Wildlife representative on Town website/Newsletter.

Goal #70 (*“Work with Disability Commission to examine ways to include ADA-accessible recreation needs”*). The Committee discussed how to address this

goal, and one suggestion was to have them request assistance if needed. This goal is related **Goal #60** (“*work with Swampscott for All Ages during park updates to examine ways to include recreation needs for 60+ year old residents*”) and **Goal #63** (*Investigate feasibility of an ADA accessible path*)

Action Item: Ms. Galazka will contact the Disability Comm., now chaired by Deb Newman.

7. Student involvement (Goal #67): Was covered in discussion of **Goal ## 67 and 68** above.

8. Memoria/ Monuments policy (Goal ##1 and 46): Mr. Smith and Mr. Longin have met, drafted a letter to send the Select Board which includes a checklist of things to consider when deciding whether to accept donations, monuments, and memorials, (draft attached).

Vote: A motion was made by Ms. Bandrowicz, seconded by Mr. Banks, and unanimously approved, to send the letter by Jan. 20, with any minor comments Committee members may provide.

Action Item: Send the letter to the Select Board by Jan. 20.

9. Property Acquisition- Hawthorne: Ms. Galazka advised that there will be a kickoff public forum on potential use of the Hawthorne property on **Sat. Jan. 28 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm**. There will be no proposals made by Town’s consultant, this is just a listening session to generate ideas. Ms. Bandrowicz suggested that may want to have letter supporting use of property as a park to send either before or at the meeting.

Action Item: Ms. Bandrowicz will share correspondence she will be drafting for Conservancy, Conservation Commission on future use of the property.

10. Green Corridor: As noted previously, signage will have to wait pending hiring consultant to do branding but Ms. Bandrowicz mentioned that she had asked, and Mr. Cresta had provided info on what work the DPW is planning in future along the Green Corridor routes (like tearing up road, installing sidewalks, etc.) so OS&RP Comm. can consider whether something else could be done to designate that route as being part of the Green Corridor (widen sidewalks, put in planters, etc.).

Action Item: Ms. Bandrowicz will resend Mr. Cresta’s email and Comm can review info provided at next meeting.

11. Task Force update – Rights of Ways, Paper Streets, Public Ways & Easements

Action Item: Mr. Banks is arranging a meeting between the task force and town officials for next week.

12. Community Development Update: Ms. Galazka provided following updates which relate to **Goal #54** (“*Improvements o playgrounds/park facilities*”): there is grant funding for Clark playground improvements including planting along roadway; working on developing better walks ways in lower Jackson Park so more accessible, including pathway to Sr. Ctr. from Machon residence; and looking for funding for feasibility study for pickle ball courts in back of Phillips Park.

Action Item: Continued updates on these improvements going forward.

13. Swampscott Conservancy update: Ms. Bandrowicz and Muñoz provided update of activities, including: holding of recent “How to Rid Ourselves of Plastic Pollution” talk co-presented with UU Church; upcoming winter seed sowing event on Jan. 25, also at UU Church; proposal to have second tree give away in spring; second presentation by Dan Proulx on interactions with coyotes; plans for anti-rodenticide programs. Also noted that Conservancy sent letter to Select Board and Town Adm. offering to do trail work on Archer St. properties.

14. School Building Committee update

There will be sustainability meeting on Jan. 17.

15. Committee/Department update – Tree Committee

As Ms. Karsten was absent, no update.

16. Committee/Department update - Conservation Commission: Other than the Commission’s recent adoption of a Volunteer Maintenance Policy, Ms. Bandrowicz noted that there were no matters of interest to the OS&RP Comm.

17. Committee/Department update – Historical Commission: Mr. Smith noted that there is an ongoing issue with a project involving an historic boat house at 53 Puritan Road. Ms. Bandrowicz says she will be attending (as Conservation Commission Chair) the Zoning meeting on this matter next week.

18. Committee/Department update - Planning Commission: No update as Ms. Ippolito was not present.

19. Committee/Department update – Recreation: No update as Ms. Strauss was not present.

20. Other business

Ms. Muñoz provided a briefing on the newly created Climate Action Plan Comm. which met for first time last week, and will be meeting on the first and third Tues. of the month. Its goal is work with a consultant to develop a Climate Action Plan to present at the Spring Town Meeting. There is a town representatives stakeholders’ meeting scheduled for Jan 23; public meetings will be scheduled thereafter.

There was discussion about the boat storage no longer occurring at Fisherman’s Beach parking lot.

21. Confirmation of next meeting date – Monday, Feb. 13 at 7:00 pm

Parking Lot

Goal 66: (“*Install unified signage at primary facility entrances as well as along connecting paths/roads*”). Check to confirm that funding for company to do branding for signs is on Spring Town Meeting Warrant.