

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting MINUTES – February 13, 2023

Members Present: Tania Lillak (Chair), Toni Bandrowicz (Vice Chair), Steve Banks, Sierra Muñoz, Verena Karsten (Tree Committee), and Richard Smith (Historical Commission),

Members Absent: Danielle Strauss (Recreation Director), Angela Ippolito (Planning Board), and Brian Longin.

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

Meeting called to order and recording started at 7:08 pm

1. Minute taker assignment: Steve Banks

2. Public Comment: None

3. Approval of minutes from January 10, 2023: Ms. Muñoz moved to approve, Ms. Bandrowicz seconded, unanimously approved.

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

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? Marzie stated the town is surveying to look at using the barriers to improve the dining experience. Also looking to see if they can keep a designated bike lane connected to existing infrastructure.

Action Item: Marzie will present design once created.

Goal 51: (*“Explore feasibility of programmed area for beach activities, such as volleyball nets, and implement results.”*) Tania spoke with Danielle, no plans for beach volleyball. Plans are in place for paddleboarding and kayaking. Marzie asked if volleyball nets could be installed at Eiesman’s beach grassy area?

Action item: Contact Danielle every six months to see if assistance is needed. Marzie will ask Gino what it would take to install nets at Eiseman’s beach grass area.

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. Mr. Banks and Gino discussed adding kayak racks at Whale Beach and the east end of Fisherman’s Beach? Gino had stated he planned to put racks at the east end of Fisherman’s beach last year but did not due to pushback from the conservation commission and objections of a neighbor. Ms. Bandowitz stated that the conservation commission did not object and that likely the kayak racks were abandoned so as not to negatively affect the coastal resiliency project.

Action Item: Mr. Banks will discuss both sites further with Mr. Cresta.

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.”*)

Sean asked that we hold off sending letter to state delegation so new Director of DCR could give input into letter. Discussion was had re: what the benefits of NR status were.

Action Item: Marzie will follow up with Angela about benefits of National Register status and with Sean re: meeting with DCR director.

Goal #69: (*“Develop and publish information on human interaction with wildlife”*)

Action Item: Toni will check on Dan Proulx on both the brochure and 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: Tania will follow up with Deb Newman and Bob Powell.

5. New Business

Swampscott will be migrating from Zoom to MS Teams.

6. OSRP Airtable Review – New

Table till next meeting due to time constrictions.

7. Student involvement

Goal #67: (*“Develop a program for a high school student to join the OSRPC each year”*)

and **Goal #68:** (*“Develop and execute a plan for education in schools about the importance of open space and Town resources”*).

Action Item: Brian to reach out to Samuel Snitkovsky and will find an administrative contact to coordinate with, possibly Mr. Norkin (at High School) and Mr. Calichman (Middle Sch. Principal).

8. Memoria/ Monuments policy (Goal #1 and 46): Mr. Smith and Mr. Longin drafted a letter to send the Select Board including a checklist of things to consider when deciding

whether to accept donations, monuments, and memorials. Mr. Smith sent the letter to the Select Board. According to Neil Duffy, the letter was viewed favorably and will be presented at the March 15th Select Board meeting.

Action Item: Tania to follow up on SB meeting results.

9. Property Acquisition (Goal #43):

The Town will be meeting with the consulting group this month to get the results from the open house and online survey. Discussion was had and it was agreed the OSRPC should send a letter to the SB.

Action Item: Ms. Bandrowicz will draft a letter from OSRPC concerning future use of the Hawthorne project.

10. Green Corridor (Goals #72-78): The committee looked at the Green Corridor in Map 12 and compared it to the paving list provided by Mr. Cresta.

Action Item: Ms. Bandrowicz will contact Mr. Cresta concerning what options are available as green corridor streets are repaved.

11. Task Force update – Rights of Ways, Paper Streets, Public Ways & Easements (Goal #48)

Mr. Banks, Mr. Drummond & Ms. Bandrowicz met with Gino Cresta to discuss the various ROWs, Easements & Paper Street.

Action Item: Mr. Banks will schedule regular meetings of the task force to keep this effort moving along.

12. Community Development Update:

Goal #54 (*“Improvements o playgrounds/park facilities”*):

Clark playground: There is grant funding for Clark playground improvements including planting along roadway; No update

Jackson Park: Working on developing better walks ways in lower Jackson Park so more accessible, including pathway to Sr. Ctr. from Machon residence; No Update

Pickleball courts: Looking for funding for feasibility study for pickle ball courts in back of Phillips Park. No update

Rail Trail: Design is estimated at 25% complete.

Action Item: Marzie to provide updates on these improvements going forward.

13. Swampscott Conservancy update: Ms. Bandrowicz and Muñoz provided update of activities, including: Feb 15th winter sewing event (event it is full); March 7th Dan Proulx on interactions with coyotes; March 14th Representative Hawkins to discuss anti-rodenticide bill. Planning ahead for April Earth-fest;

Archer Street: Working with Girl Scouts for archer street cleanup. Last month Marzie submitted a grant application to the MassTrails program requesting \$100,000 in grant funding for design (\$10,000), construction (\$80,000) and picnic tables and mile markers etc (\$10,000)

14. School Building Committee update

Committee has not met. No updates

15. Committee/Department update – Climate Action Plan

Resilience Swampscott: Consultant KLA held working group meeting with different voices in town coalescing input from different voices. There are 5 broad goals around Climate action. Ultimate goal is to bring exec summary plan to town meeting. Also discussed outreach. Will be three working sessions before creating draft.

16. Committee/Department update – Tree Committee

As Ms. Karsten was absent, no update.

17. Committee/Department update - Conservation Commission: Other than a ship in harbor is laying fiber optic cable up to Rockport, then over to Europe, Ms. Bandrowicz noted that there were no matters of interest to the OS&RP Comm.

18. Committee/Department update – Historical Commission: Mr. Smith noted the Glover property investigations: 1) trying to put together engineers to look at the original glover house. 2) Investigating if other archaeological finds are on the property.

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

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

21. Other business

None

21. Confirmation of next meeting date – Tuesday, Mar. 14 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.