

## Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting MINUTES – March 14, 2023

**Members Present:** Tania Lillak (Chair), Toni Bandrowicz (Vice Chair), Richard Smith (Historical Commission), Angela Ippolito (Planning Board), Sierra Muñoz, Verena Karsten (Tree Committee), and Brian Longin.

**Members Absent:** Danielle Strauss (Recreation Director), and Steve Banks.

**Town Representative:** Gino Cresta

**Meeting called to order and recording started at 7:07 pm**

1. **Minute taker assignment:** Brian Longin

2. **Public Comment:** None

**10. Green Corridor:** Can we incorporate signage to Mr. Cresta's upcoming street work? Toni had sent around quick research of a green corridor with a bike path that was painted green and another one with sidewalks with storm controls and rain gardens. Looks like green infrastructure is upcoming with new rules. Might be useful to think about it proactively. We wanted input from Mr. Cresta who was in attendance. Verena said Marzie received a grant to work with crosswalks at railroad station. That is part of the green corridor. No trees currently planned for green corridor.

Mr. Cresta mentioned potentially raised crosswalks at railroad intersections and that painting of bike paths is possible. Sean is seeking 1M for roadway safety improvements. But Ms. Ippolito said, this funding seems to be ready for the school improvements. Mr. Cresta said with a good plan signage and painting should not be an issue.

**Action Item:** Ms. Bandrowicz will research green infrastructure and potentially identify locations for sidewalk drainage gardens. Committee will discuss with Marzie about funding for such work. Committee will also inform Mr. Cresta of potential locations for bike path work.

3. **Approval of minutes from February 13, 2023:** Ms. Muñoz moved to approve, Ms. Bandrowicz seconded, unanimously approved.

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

**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. Ms. Ippolito said we did not need permission to send a letter in support of an issue. Town Administrator doesn't have purview over committees. The status would help reap the benefits and managed improvements of the historical area. Swampscott Olmstead neighborhood completes the historical story. Regardless of what happens, Ms. Ippolito said we need to pursue the status.

**Action Item:** Ms. Bandrowicz will ask Marzie for more specifics about Town Administrator perspective and why no letter? Ms. Ippolito and Mr. Smith will reach out to

Nancy Schultz and communicate about best options for following up on initial inventory efforts for Kings Beach.

**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. No update this meeting as Mr. Banks not present.

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

Dan is moving to NH so brochure might not get done. Marzie spoke to Dan, but does not have a delivery date yet. She will follow up again.

**Action Item:** Toni will check on Dan Proulx on brochure. Leave this on one more month until April meeting.

**\*Goal 51:** (*“Explore feasibility of programmed area for beach activities, such as volleyball nets, and implement results.”*) Marzie asked if volleyball nets could be installed at Eiesman’s beach grassy area?

**Action item:** Marzie will ask Gino what it would take to install nets at Eiseman’s beach grass area. Result: Gino and Danielle suggested that we keep the volleyball nets at Phillips and not install me ones at Eiseman’s.

\*This can be removed from the minutes next meeting.

## **5. New Business**

Ms. Bandrowicz asked if we can amend Open Space plan? Or wait 7 years? The reason, Jackson Woods as conservation land. Would like to propose adding the woods to the plan as a long term open space objective. Tania said that Goal #15 already incorporates these objectives.

As per Pete Kane, JW is not currently a separate piece of property from the overall High School property, and so it would have to first be segregated off. But first, we’d have to make sure the counting of the JW acreage as part of the school property wasn’t necessary for the MSBA funding for the HS. Secondly, since there is no frontage currently to the JW, it can’t go through an ANR process (land division that doesn’t require formal review) and entails a slightly more complicated (but not impossible process).

**Action Item:** Ms. Bandrowicz will communicate the interest of the committee to keep moving forward with Goal #15. She will reach out to Pete Kane as to next steps as there is no Town Planner yet.

## **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 and coordinate with, possibly Mr. Norkin (at High School) and Mr. Calichman (Middle Sch. Principal).

**8. Memoria/ Monuments policy (Goal #1 and 46):** 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 15<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting. Mr. Smith is talking to select board tomorrow night to bring them up to speed. But most is in the memo. How receptive is the select board to having a formalized process?

**Action Item:** Richard to provide follow up on SB meeting results.

## **9. Property Acquisition (Goal #43):**

The next public meeting for the Hawthorne property is scheduled for end of April. Ms, Bandrowicz drafted a letter from OSRPC concerning future use of the Hawthorne project. Mr. Smith also drafted a presentation with thoughts and concerns of his own. He shared his presentation. He explained that the lot was previously a hub and commercial heart of the town. Fast forward, the lot becomes parking, and unused by pedestrians. Half of downtown has been ripped out and replaced by parking lot. He proposes restoration of Humphrey street as pedestrian friendly and the other being a waterfront public park. Ms. Ippolitio agreed with Mr. Smiths points. Ms. Bandrowicz took the other point of view. Don't need storefronts to restore the areas. We don't want to hide the park or open space behind a wall of stores, rather highlight it as a gateway to Swampscott.

Tania sided with Ms. Bandrowicz. She did like the trees and tables at the front of the part idea. She thought an archway might be a nice addition.

**Action Item:** Committee to review Ms, Bandrowicz's letter and propose edits and/or new ideas to Tania.

## **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. No update this meeting as Mr. Banks not present.

## **12. Community Development Update:**

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

Email from Marzie: This past Thursday the town and our consultant had a site walk with MassDot staff on the rail trail. We are still working on the design to meet MassDot Standards.

**13. Swampscott Conservancy update:** Ms. Bandrowicz said meeting tonight was cancelled due to snow. But check the website for upcoming presentations. Annual members meeting is next month. Jenny Armini will be keynote speaker.

**\*14. School Building Committee update**

Community blasting meeting was held 02/16 and updated drone footage from project is available on the project website.

\*Tania spoke to Sierra. This update can be removed from the regular agenda as the school plan was finalized and is proceeding. Sierra will update as needed going forward.

**15. Committee/Department update – Climate Action Plan**

-Have been reviewing community and stakeholder feedback from 1st and 2nd meetings. In first and second meetings, reviewed Climate Plan goals, strategies, actions were reviewed by the group. The attendees were allocated to 2 different breakout sessions to provide input on the draft goals, strategies, actions. Feedback was collected on barriers and opportunities and any goals or actions that seemed to be missing.

-Discussing Outreach Events to disseminate goals, get feedback from broader community before Town Meeting in May.

-Also discussed Community First Project Grant - Swampscott partnered with Lynn and received a \$60K grant to promote energy audits and weatherization projects - will be inviting Marissa Meaney will (Energy Advocate for this project) to upcoming CAPC meeting.

-Third stakeholder meeting is coming up:

Resilient Swampscott  
Climate Action & Resilience Plan  
Key Stakeholder Meeting #3  
March 23, 2023 at 1:00 - 3:00pm

**16. Committee/Department update – Tree Committee**

Going to be talking to Select Board tomorrow regarding a canopy study. Spring planting is coming up. 33 new trees coming. Earth Fest activities on 4/29 and will have trees given away. Municipal reforestation bill letter to be issued to the select board. Provide funding for tree committee work.

**17. Committee/Department update - Conservation Commission:** No updates.

**18. Committee/Department update – Historical Commission:** Mr. Smith was out of country. Not much to update. The discussion with developer on Glover site continue. Getting a consultant to do research on history of land. Never has been inventoried.

**19. Committee/Department update - Planning Commission:** Finally made decision for Glover property. Land should reflect historical elements. Some other edits and bylaw changes proposed for next month as well as amending master plans.

**Action Item:** Angela to send final Glover plan to the committee for review of open space elements.

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

**21. Other business**

None

**21. Confirmation of next meeting date – Tuesday, April 11 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.

**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 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.