



TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

ELIHU THOMSON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
22 MONUMENT AVENUE, SWAMPSCOTT, MA 01907

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January 3, 2019

Tonia Bandrowicz, President
Swampscott Conservancy

Dear Ms. Bandrowicz,

Thank you for your letter dated November 19, 2018. We, as the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee (OSRPC), are fully in support of the Swampscott Conservancy and we applaud your accomplishments to date.

We also agree with the suggestions you made for the Town of Swampscott in your letter and are happy for your support in accomplishing the goals of the 2013-2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). Here is our response to your suggestions relevant to the OSRPC:

1. Take Action to Augment and Improve the Town's Conservation and Public Green Spaces

a. Swampscott Trailhead to Forest River Conservation Area

We agree that the town should strive to expand public open space when the opportunity arises. We wholeheartedly support a trailhead to the Forest River Conservation area at the back of the cemetery.

b. Open Space at Foster Pond

We agree that the town should acquire parcels of land from Aggregate Industries as possible, specifically the parcels at 135 Foster Road and 2 Carson Road. We agree with clearing a small area for benches and/or picnic tables at these parcels, taking care not to disturb the natural environment as much as possible.

c. Pollinator Garden

We agree with installing a pollinator garden at the site of the old rose garden on Town Hall property. A pollinator garden with a historically appropriate design can provide many benefits to the environment and would be educational and pleasing for Swampscott residents.

2. Taking Steps to Eradicate Invasive Species/Promote Native Species

We agree with taking the necessary steps to eradicate the invasive species in town to protect our greenery. We also agree with the use of native species as much as possible and the creation of a list of Native Plants.

3. Taking Biodiversity into Account/Illumination of Public Spaces

We agree that the town should develop a policy to promote biodiversity when beautifying public spaces to protect wildlife and town residents. Open space should have native plantings as much as possible along with leaving more areas to grow naturally. We also agree that illumination should be adjusted as necessary to reduce light pollution.

4. Take Action to Promote and Engage the Community in Science Advocacy

We agree with open data collection and the collection of biodiversity data on iNaturalist to educate and engage town residents.

5. Coordinating with Schools on Using Conservation Land for Education

We agree that the children of Swampscott should be provided with more opportunities to learn in our open spaces. We support using conservation land to engage and excite children about nature and the environment.

We thank you for bringing these suggestions to light. Please let us know how the OSRPC can assist with these projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tania Lillak', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tania Lillak, Chair
Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee