

**Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting  
December 12, 2023, 7 pm  
Town Hall and Remote (Teams)**

Received by Town Clerk  
February 5, 2024 12:21pm

**Members Present:** Tania Lillak (Chair), Toni Bandrowicz (Vice Chair), Sierra Muñoz, Steve Banks, Brian Longin, Shauna Vera, and Lauryn Hart

**Members Absent:** None

**Town Representatives Present:** Marzie Galazka (Community & Econ. Develop), Katie Phelan (Select Board)

**Town Representatives Absent:** Danielle Strauss (Recreation Director)

**Meeting called to order and recording started at 7:05**

**1. Minute taker assignment** Tania Lillak

**2. Public Comment** None

**3. Approval of minutes** Toni moved to approve minutes from November 14, 2023, which was seconded by Sierra, and unanimously approved.

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

**Goal 69** (*“Develop and publish information on human interaction with wildlife”*) and **Goal 76** (*Investigate and protect wildlife corridors; add to Green Corridor map as needed.*)

**Update:** Toni reported that Girl Scouts in town (via contact Suzanne Hale) may be helping to coordinate this effort, but thinks we have to move to Plan C. Sierra – can we pull from other towns information? Sierra volunteered to take this on. Coyotes, turkeys, bats, etc. Sierra will aim for next meeting to have a few items. Toni has something from NH for the brochure and will send to Sierra. Wildlife corridors will put in.

**Action Item:** Sierra to work on Goals 69 and 76 pertaining to wildlife.

**Goal 71** (*Work with ENHC to create signage along Byway indicating points of interest*)

Toni and Marzie are working with a company in Lynn for 40 steps and Phillips Beach. Gino will install. Still waiting for sample signage for 2 signs for "40 Steps" easement, add'l "Walk to the Sea" sign for Phillip Beach Ave easement. Signs are up at White Court. Residents put up hours of operation which are incorrect. Marzie to look into. Will put up more guidelines.

**Action Item:** Toni to provide sample signage when available.

**Action Item:** Marzie to look into hours of operation sign at White Court which are not correct.

**Goal 65** *Extend National Register status from the Lynn Line to Redington Street.*

**Goal 11** *Have Swampscott's section incorporated into DCR's "Lynn Shore Reservation" (landscape, hardscape, railing, lighting, signage) and pursue effort to have DCR take over or share maintenance.*

Marzie is still waiting on Sean. He still can't co-ordinate a meeting yet.

**Action Item:** Marzie still trying to schedule the meeting with the DCR Commissioner.

**Goal 53** *("Find and install additional areas for kayak and small boat storage")*

Mr. Banks stated two RDAs have been submitted to ConCom who will vote on Oct 19<sup>th</sup>. Steve reported that this came before the ConCom. They want it in the parking lot instead however this is a poor place because of parking. We can try to use signs but people move them. The beach would be better. ConCom concerned because of climate change and beach is disappearing. Another ConCom meeting in January 2024. Kayak racks on Puritan way. Post it and inform the neighbors.

**Action Item:** Steve to report on kayak racks after ConCom meeting in January 2024.

**Goal 2** *(Determine whether to expand trash/recycling facilities at all locations or implement "carry in/carry out" program)*

Marzie reached out to BOH – carry in carry out is not working. Change it? Up to DPW. Talked to Gino this week about getting better trash and recycling receptacles. Images were shown. Maybe we could have them sponsored. Marzie suggested a clear message – landfill and recycling. Marzie does not recommend composting due to rodents. Tania liked the format of both receptacles together and a smaller hole for recycling. Sierra likes the landfill message and thought we could do FB posts about this. Locations would be all beaches. Sierra mentioned the Yo-Yo being a problem and Tania said the more receptacles the better at Kings Beach.

**Action item:** Marzie to work with Gino on new trash and recycling receptables for all beaches.

**Goal 8** *(Develop a partnership/committee that includes representatives from ConComm, Swampscott Conservancy, Tree Task Force, and DPW to cohesively work together on plans for improving and maintaining open space)*

Toni connected with Pete Kane who suggested that the OSRPC submit project applications to all listed groups.

**Action Item:** Toni to work on a Project Application template.

**Goal 12:** *Investigate and address any open space/conservation encouragement by neighbors.*

Toni said ConCom addressed one at Ewing Woods. Town ended up going to court. Have to go back and check the resident has not gone back to his old ways. Surveys cost money so not always cost-prohibitive. Nothing active right now.

**Action Item:** Tania to work on an encroachment FB post and contact ConCom.

**Goal 13:** *Remove dead trees and ornamental shrubs; trim remaining trees to improve overall health.*

Tania connected with Jim. They didn't have it on their radar, but public trees in parks are so he will put it on a future agenda. He also said dead trees on the rocky slope probably should be left to decompose naturally. Good habitat for critters and good for erosion control.

**Action Item:** Tania will follow up with Tree Committee (Chair Jim O.) again to find out their recommendations for Howland Park.

**Goal 14:** *Repair seawall and stairway taking into consideration sea level rise and storm surges (per Beach Management Plan)*

No update.

**Action Item:** Check in early 2024 on status of Kings Beach seawall repairs.

**Goal 15:** *Acquire conservation restriction to protect open space land in perpetuity*

Update re: Jackson Park: from Marzie – will need to survey the area before Planning Board process initiated for ANR to separate lots and change conservation designation. Currently waiting for funding for the survey; estimate is approx. \$5, 000 - \$ 8, 000.

**Action Item:** Marzie will follow up with Pete re: funding for the survey in the spring.

## **5. New Business**

### **Charter/Bylaw Recommendations:**

Toni sent an email to David and no response yet. If he doesn't get back, will send another email.

**Action Item:** Toni to follow up with SB re: Charter/By-Law recommendations.

### **Farmers Market Table:**

Sierra and Brian were at the table on November 19 and it went well with steady foot traffic. They had a big map to find open space. It worked out well to pair with Rail Trail and would do that again.

## **6. OSRP Airtable Review**

**Goal 16:** *Encourage continued use and appreciation of Town Hall as town gathering spot*

Going well and no update. Continue to monitor.

**Goal 17:** *Identify and protect designated historical sites*

Marzie said Town is close to signing a long term lease with the MBTA for the Train Depot. She will keep us in the know. Fish House – no update. Brian to be the Historical Commission liaison for OSRPC.

**Goal 18:** *Incorporate open space and recreation goals into land use planning and zoning*

Marzie reached out to MAPC for land summit but no funding. She still wants to pursue it, but contingent on funding. We were involved with Glover House and Vinnin Square too. Marzie to provide site plans for comments to OSRPC for all projects going forward.

**Action Item:** Marzie to speak with Angela re: timing for comments from the OSRPC to Planning Board re: new projects.

**Goal 19:** *Address light pollution at night in open spaces*

Toni said this is in the SC letter for a by-law change. We need a policy drafted. Colleen Hitchcock has a strong interest in light pollution.

**Action Item:** Toni to follow up with Colleen Hitchcock re: light pollution policy progress.

**Goal 20:** *Dedicate all Town-owned open space areas to permanent open space/recreation/conservation through easements or other protective measures*

We are working on Jackson Park. The PARC grant would have provided Article 97 for Phillips Park.

## **7. Student involvement – Goals 67 and 68**

**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”*).

Toni sent a grant application for students to apply through the SC – needs to look deeper into this and also get in contact with someone in school.

**Action Item:** Lauryn and Brian to work on a form and survey re: engagement for the high school as well as elementary school project ideas.

## **8. Memorial/ Monuments policy – Goal 1**

Brian said there was not much feedback on the draft policy. Richard has no feedback because HC busy with other issues. Brian to send to Marzie as a final draft. Marzie had one comment to remove town counsel and use only as needed.

**Action Item:** Marzie to present Memorials policy to Sean and get it on next SB agenda. Brian to get a rep from Disability Commission.

## **9. Property Acquisition – Goals 9 and 43**

**Goal 9** (*Ensure provision of playground/green space of the same square footage or more on site if property is re-used*)

**Goal 43** (*Identify areas for potential acquisition & Develop policies for Town acquisition of private land, placing priority on resource protection and with options for right of first refusal*)

**Hawthorne Property:** Design consultants, HDR, will be at the SB meeting on Dec 20, 2023. They will give an update on where we are in the process.

**Action Item:** Marzie to provide next Hawthorne forum date.

**Hadley Property:** Marzie said it is ok to move the playground equipment. Risk management in town said it's ok because of insurance. Maybe Linscott park.

**Action Item:** Marzie and Toni to discuss where to move Hadley playground equipment.

**Archer Street:**

Marzie to submit a LAND grant for Archer Street trails. Tania suggested a public forum for this.

**Action Item:** Marzie to submit a grant for Archer Street trails.

## **10. Green Corridor – Goals #72-78**

Ongoing discussion about signage for green corridor designation, signage, messaging.

**Action Item:** Brian and Toni to come up with green corridor plan and meet with Gino.

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

Steve provided an update. He heard back from KP law. If a Paper street and no town maintenance and nobody using, it belongs to abutters. ROW's are always available to abutters. Claremont Ter no longer exists and is probably not coming back so giving up on that. Taking paper streets by town costs money. Need to talk to Legal. Tania and Toni said put signs up on the paper streets.

**Action Item:** Steve to prepare a list of questions for Sean re: ROW's etc.

## **12. Community Development Update – Goals #42, #45, #64 #66, #71, #75**

**Pickleball:**

Courts were shot down at TM. Where to go now? Marzie wants comments on what to do. Maybe re-do basketball courts. Marzie wants to try for a PARC grant extension. Special TM on Feb 5. Asked for our support. Alternative location and plan for pickleball courts. Sierra said we can help with parameters and support next round. Tania suggested that there be more of a presentation on locations and why a location was chosen. It should be clear as to what locations were considered and why one was chosen.

**Action Item:** Marzie to follow up with OSRPC on pickleball grant plans.

**Foster Pond:**

Toni spoke about land at Foster Pond. Need public access.

**Action Item:** Toni to talk to Sean about Carlson Terrace property.

**Action Item:** Marzie to look into funding for design at Foster Pond.

**Rail Trail:**

**Action Item:** Sierra to meet with Alexis (Friends of Rail Trail) re: combined efforts around Rail Trail, Safe Routes to School, walking/biking support/infrastructure/safety

**13. Swampscott Conservancy update**

The Tailwinds live bird presentation and rodenticides harming birds of prey presentation went well, see attached Nature in Neighborhood: See Nature in the Neighborhood: The threat of rodenticides to wildlife - Itemlive

Planning two climate change presentations in new year (dates to be announced): Dr. Sabine von Mering's presentation "Beginning to End the Climate Crisis" at the library; and Sally Warner on climate change's impacts on the Gulf Stream (virtual)

**14. Committee/Department update – Climate Action Plan (CAP)**

Updating town webpage for ways individuals can help.

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

No update. November minutes not posted.

**16. Committee/Department update - Conservation Commission**

ConCom approved test borings for new pier. Pier has not been approved. Eel grass issue being discussed. Rail Trail in new year.

**17. Community Preservation Act**

Brian met with David. Need to get ducks in row. New tax rate to be set first which happened last week. FinCom should we be 1, 2, 3% community- what should Swampscott be? Engage TM members and rest of town. Need to find recurring funding for things like the Glover House. Historic preservation.

**Action Item:** Brian will follow up with Select Board member Grishman.

**18. Committee Update: Master Plan**

Shauna will be OSRPC rep to Master Plan Committee; committee hasn't met yet. Starting the process in January. Marzie to reach out to Shauna then.

**19. Committee/Department update – Recreation Commission:**

No updates.

**20. Other business**

None.

**21. Confirmation of next meeting date**

Next meeting is January 9, 2024, which is planned to be virtual, on Microsoft Teams.

**Meeting then adjourned.**