

Open Spaces & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting March 10, 2020

Members Present: Tania Lillak, Tonia Bandrowicz, Sara Hepburn, Sarah Koch, Richard Smith, Sierra Munoz, and Molly O'Connell (Senior Planner)

Not present: Angela Ippolito; Danielle Strauss (Recreation Director)

Tania Lillak calls the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

Note of Appreciation: The Committee wishes to thank Sara Hepburn, who will be retiring from the OS&RP Committee as of this month, for her service on both the OS&RP and Tree Advisory Committees. Her commitment and dedication to protecting and improving open space in town is greatly appreciated. We will miss her and wish her all the best on her new adventures in North Carolina.

Minutes: Minutes from January 14, 2020 and February 11, 2020 were unanimously approved.

Stormwater: In furtherance of OS&RP Item #62, Toni had previously suggested that the town join Greenscapes North Shore Coalition which assists communities in addressing stormwater and water quality issues.

Action item: Toni to talk to Gino and investigate Greenscapes -- tabled to April meeting.

Interpretive Signs for Recreation Areas: Molly said the town has submitted a grant for interpretive signs and maps.

Green Corridor

Map from plan (map #12). Will need to discuss with Gino about what is the best green corridor to explore.

Action Item: Molly will do research and look at MAPC.

Open Space Survey – Molly is prepared to “go live” with the survey tomorrow. She will also be sending it to other town departments and committees and then having a town wide open house on April 27th. OS&RP discussed ideas for the upcoming open house.

Vote: Motion to approve survey with some suggested edits unanimously approved.

Invasives at Howland Park:

Action item: OS&RP will be talking to Gino on removal of the invasives.

Tree Bylaw: will be presented at March 18th Select Board meeting (as fit is on its way to being put on the warrant for Town Meeting). Toni will make a presentation and answer questions. Suggested that Tree Advisory members also come to the meeting.

Vote: Motion to approve draft tree bylaw made by Sara, seconded by Sierra and unanimously approved.

MVP Grant for Beach Entrances at Philips and Cassidy Beaches: Meeting schedule for March 18th at 10 am, but not clear if anyone from Open Space can attend. Toni notes that any work at beach entrances will require the town to go before the Conservation Commission. The proposed bathhouse at Phillips Beach is not part of MVP grant (which is for climate change resiliency). Decided to hold off on sending draft letter to Select Board on bathhouse.

Forest Management Plan: A draft (previously distributed to the OS&RP Committee) has been prepared by a certified forester under DCR program (75% grant). Once comments from Conservation Commission received will have the plan finalized and then can discuss implementation of some suggested projects (e.g., creation of another path, construction of duck blind) with appropriate town committees and departments.

Rail trail: Plan is to move ahead with construction of that portion nearest Marblehead (and not needing Conservation Commission approval).

New School Building Committee: Sarah went to the School Committee's March 3rd meeting where the 5 potential sites were discussed: Stanley School, Middle School, Hadley School, Philips Park, and DPW yard. Committee was reminded that Philips may not be a buildable site. Plan for Middle School is to build on upper playing field. For Stanley, building of new 3 story school would be on existing playing field so can keep existing school open during construction, and negotiating with UU church to use its entrance. Sarah will go to next meeting which will focus on traffic issues. Tania stated the importance of not losing any open space in building the new school.

White Court / Blythswood update: Issue with ADA and AAB requirements being negotiated with Disabilities Committee and White Court developers. Currently waiting to see if developers can agree to putting handrails in if use steeper slope necessary to protect trees.

0 Archer Street: Molly said that Marzie was looking into possible grants to purchase property.

Action item: Tania to follow up with Marzie.

Lawn organic program – At March 18th meeting, proposal will be made for Select Board to vote on and confirm that (1) the Health Dept.'s policy on pesticides will be followed and enforced, (2) the town will no longer pay third party landscapers to use pesticides, and (3) the town will move forward with implementing an organic lawn care program. Specific recommendation on how to implement an organic program will be made by the advisory committee, and may include recommendations to hire additional DPW staff, utilizing Chip Osborne to advise and train town employees, etc.

Historical Update: Noted that there was an inhouse RFP on old police station ... train station ...

Next meeting is on April 14, 2020

Adjourned at 8:47pm

Minutes taken by Toni Bandrowicz