

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting MINUTES October 11, 2022

Members Present: Tania Lillak (Chair), Toni Bandrowicz, Richard Smith (Historical Commission), Steve Banks, Sierra Muñoz.
Public Present: Brian Drummond, Deb Newman

Meeting called to order and recording started at 7:03 pm

1. Minute taker assignment: Sierra Munoz

2. Public Comment: None

3. Rights of Ways, Paper Streets, Public Ways & Easements:

Marzie was trying to get money for rights of way/open space signage and branding - money was not granted from Capital Improvements, but Marzie reports that she is hopeful that they will meet again and there will be a special town meeting in December; suggestion that OSRPC sends a letter supporting the signage. Idea is to have cohesive branding for rights of way, easements, green corridor, etc.

Action Item: Toni to write letter.

Discussion about rights of way disagreements/inconsistencies in ownership/rights between abutters and the town. OSRPC should look at all the rights of ways listed and prioritize which to recommend the town focus on. QUESTION about what action to take - at minimum, add signage to acknowledge the pathways, versus larger maintenance/landscaping.

Action Item: Steve to put together spreadsheet of all areas.

4. Approval of minutes from September 13, 2022: Sierra moved to approve, Steve seconded, unanimously approved.

5. Updates/Action items from last meeting's minutes

-Update on student intern projects:

Tania has received digital native plant materials from student contact.

Steve reports that Green Scholars is still disbanded, currently has Outdoor Adventure and Conservation Club at SHS; OSRPC wants to know what the focus of the club might be, and if the club members would be interested in working with town committees

Action Item: Tania will pass along native plant materials to SC.

Action Item: Yaroslava offered to find out more info.

-Jackson Woods: no update

Re: Goal 46: Develop and Implement OSRPC Policy for Town Improvement projects, to incorporate the following priorities: ADA access, amenities for all ages, historically-appropriate landscaping, public art, sustainable design, and net-neutral energy consumption, natural resource protection.

Action item: Brian and Richard to review and add this while working on the memorial locations.

Goal 47: Develop and implement public access/management plan, including installation of interpretive signage

Action item: Toni working on it, in progress.

Goal 49: Expand and improve public sidewalks along popular walking routes, especially Humphrey Street.

Action item: Follow up with Marzie.

6. New Business

None

7. OSRP Airtable Review

Goal 51: Explore feasibility of programmed area for beach activities, such as volleyball nets, and implement results. Discussion of proper oversight to ensure reinforce the important regular check ins with recreation staff.

Action Item: Tania will connect with Danielle via email re: this goal and checking in on programming needs, strategic recreational area planning

Goal 52: Explore potential access points and creation of additional trails per recommendations in Forest Stewardship Plan
re: Harold King Forest, but Committee also discussed other trail/wooded open space in town and access. There is ongoing discussions and oversight by Swampscott Conservancy on various forest trails - Forest River and other wooded areas.
Marked as completed.

Goal 53: Find and install additional areas for kayak and small boat storage
Pertaining to Fisherman's Beach - Steve reports that there is significantly less kayak storage available now at Fisherman's Beach, after concerns about storage. Discussion about needs for additional storage, demand etc. Is there adequate storage for water recreation?

Action Item: Steve will follow up with Gino and Danielle to get status updates and need for additional storage for kayaks and small boats.

Goal 54: Improvement playground/park facility and ensure there are features for small children (i.e. tot lot structures).
This is ongoing - see discussion re: Abbott Park and Community Development update.
Committee will continue to monitor potential play areas for access/tot structure potential.

Goal 55: Improve tennis and basketball courts; ensure any removal of courts can be replaced 1:1 in town. Ongoing - this is part of recreation department's ongoing work.

Action Item: Steve will also ask Danielle for updates on this goal.

8. Monument Area Maintenance/Locations Discussion

Brian and Richard present a map and spreadsheet of existing monument structures and siteplan; looks at questions of potential places, public versus neighborhood; potential locations near schools, in wooded areas, etc. Different potential locations suggest different usages and occupancies, related to the character of the place itself.

Spreadsheet presents character, pedestrian access, and recommended structures/memorial types

Action Item: Committee members to email Richard before the next meeting with suggestions.

9. Property Acquisition update

Tania spoke with Peter Spellios today. Updates below.

-0 Archer Steet – Meeting tonight re P&K Trust, but maybe not because waiting for survey, probably needing to take by eminent domain since no response re purchase

-Joyce Hass Archer St – to be completed before end of year, due diligence until then

-Hawthorne – Extended until the end of the year, TM warrant required AG approval first

-Pete Kane working on conservation restriction for Hass property so far, then once both acquired, go through process for both

-Hawthorne park – Interviewing LA designers to facilitate the public process, they may not be the final designers. 4 LA altogether, 2 already interviewed, waiting on the other 2 who are busy; Neal Duffy, Peter, and two others are the group members interviewing

-Still aiming for May TM vote, or at least have something more concrete for then, hard to get there for that timeline but will try

10. Green Corridor

Brian and Toni have looked at sign designs and firms to create cohesive signage; ideas to expand signage beyond directional arrows, to wildlife, history, more dynamic signage. Looking to combine discussion with rights of way signage.

Action item: Brian and Richard to review and add this while working on the memorial locations.

11. Community Development update - From Marzie via email:

-Basketball at Clark/Abbott Park was resurfaced. Line coating will be done in September.

-This past July I submitted a grant application to rehabilitate the swing section of Abbott Park. The request is for \$100,000 in grant funding to update the swings, install new play areas for smaller children, install an interactive music instruments section, and safety surfacing for the entire area.

-I also requesting funding from Capital Improvement Committee to retain the services of a landscape architect to redesign the fenced off grassy area that has the rock monument on it. I welcome input from the OSRPC for recommenders and ideas for this space –some ideas to start the conversation:

Keep the space as passive with better access and sitting areas
Add a water feature to this park – splash park
Add addition play structures
Landscape only

-Additionally, the School Department also requested \$100,000 in town funding for this park, so if our grant is funded we will have \$200,000 toward improvements. I will reach out to the school and survey the parents for ideas. I met with the state staff on site and she was supportive of our proposal. Fingers crossed that our proposal is funded.

-As part of the annual CIC process I request \$50,000 in town funding toward wayfinding for signage for points of interest such as White Court, public paths and municipal buildings. I will update you once I have additional info.

Action Item: Members to review Abbott Park corner triangle per: Marzie's request for input

12. Swampscott Conservancy update - Sierra/Toni

Conservancy led Trails and Sails events last month. Steve Young presenting tomorrow night (October 12) at UU Church about climate change; live and online options for talk.

13. School Building/Sustainability Committee update - Sierra

Next meeting will be 10/25; further update at November OSRPC meeting. Contracts should be announced soon for building. Ongoing negotiation about tree removal - see Tree Committee update.

14. Committee/Department update - Tree Committee, Verena, via email

- Tree removal at Stanley School for the new Elementary School. The proposal was to remove 103 trees on the property. The TC has been negotiating with the design team to save some of the large northern red oaks on the perimeter of the property. The largest oak was requested to be removed by an abutter and we are still championing for that specific tree to be saved. It's been collaborative but given the size of the site versus the school and what the work involves (grading changes) there is not too much flexibility.
- Next Tree Hearing 10/13, 2 PM. 11 trees listed for inspection/removal. Anybody can object or join the meeting.
- Forestry Budget - the TC is drafting a letter in support of increasing the budget for maintenance of our urban forest from \$7500 to \$30000. The \$7500 for contract work is usually depleted by the end of July for removal of 2 large trees.
- Town Hall Trees - we will be installing flags today to protect the trees from further driving/parking under them in advance of the car show. DPW will also install a layer of mulch under the trees this Fall.
- Fall Planting - the TC is finalizing the order of 24 trees (including 11 for Town Hall for the arboretum paid by the DCR grant).

Committee/Department update – Conservation - Toni

No update

Committee/Department update – Historical - Richard

Town wants to create an exposition at Town Hall about native american life; beginning in the next month or so; Historical Commission is working with consultant to ensure talk on 11/12/22 at library about Swampscott native peoples.

Other items (a.k.a. parking lot)

- a. Light pollution at Town Hall that is potentially causing problem for migrating birds (Goal #19)
- b. Zoning regulations to address negative impacts of development (Goals #18 and #23)
- c. How do we develop a partnership to collaborate and coordinate with different committees? (Goal #18)
- d. Identify and certify potential vernal pools (Conservancy is working on) (Goal #29)
- e. Reduce sprinkler use – Tania noted that DPW using less water in 2022; check in with Gino each summer (Goal #40)
- f. Implement recommendations to improve flora and fauna from Harold King Forest Stewardship Management Plan such as cutting of trees (Goal #35)
- g. Develop local wetlands protection by-law that compliments the state Wetlands Protection Act (long term project of Con Com) (Goal #33)
- h. Howland Park: As Gino is busy with tree plantings and other work in summer, Tania will check in with him in the Fall (Goal #13)
- i. Salt preservation on roads work.
- j. Policies for town acquiring land.
- k. No. 44 improved access to temple land and pond.
- l. Goal 48: Evaluate and promote opportunities to open public ways/access points and improve walkability on public sidewalks through infrastructure upgrades. Action item: Coordinate with ROW's etc.
- m. Goal 50: Explore feasibility of a splash pad and/or water feature for a new or existing park area. Include in future park upgrades as warranted. Action item: Gage interest in public process.

Committee/Department update – Planning - Angela

No update

Committee/Department update – Recreation - Danielle

No update

Other business

None

Confirmation of next meeting date – November 8, 2022 - Tania will confirm.