

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting MINUTES – October 12, 2021

Members Present: Tania Lillak (Chair), Sierra Muñoz, Brian Longin, Michele Barden, Richard Smith (Historical Commission), Danielle Strauss (Recreation Director), Molly O'Connell (Senior Planner), Verena Karsten (Ad Hoc Member, Tree Task Force), Polly Titcomb (Select Board), Angela Ippolitto (Planning Board)

Not Present: Toni Bandrowicz, Marzie Galazka

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Tania Lillak

1. Minute taker assignment Michele

2. Public comment

No commenters

3. Approval of minutes from September 14, 2021 Word doc Tania

Sierra motioned, Richard second, all approved

4. Action items from last meeting's minutes Tania

An issue has been found with the numbering in the Airtable. Going forward, we will changing the past numbering to the new numbering.

#11 but now #5 Playground maintenance - Molly emailed Gino.

Action item: Molly to follow up with Gino

#19 but now #64 Fosters Pond – Marzie, Toni and Michele met with Weston & Sampson. Engineering proposal was very high.

Action item: Michele to gather reports and find gaps in available information

#65 Kings Beach designation - no update,

Action item: Molly to follow-up with Justina and Angela

#21 but now #29 Vernal Pools - Update on vernal pool identification project w/ Swampscott Conservancy: Erica Oberlin has completed surveying but there are technical difficulties with the HeritageHub state of MA online reporting system that have prevented her from inputting data to the state system and moving forward with official designation. She's working with them to try to get logged into the system to move forward. So no progress on project but I will keep requesting updates

Action item: Sierra to provide update at next meeting

#17 Train depot and Fish House

Consultant and Harbor Commission to organize public forum on pier. October 28, 2021 at 7 pm. Resiliency to be a primary focus of the project.

Action item: Angela to send an email to Peter regarding Train Depot and Molly to follow up re fish house

#7 Site specific maintenance programs

Garage at Town Hall – bronze plaques from veteran’s arboretum were found, attempting to get them this Friday.

#23 now #43 Identify Land for acquisition (See below)

#73 Identify Green Corridor, Angela

Action item: Angela to contact ENHC, Molly working on signage

5. New business – Animal Control Officer Tania

Town to hire someone new. In the interim reaching out to Dan for help.

Action item: Toni and Molly to provide update

Climate Coalition – Ryan Hale from Energy Efficient, doodle poll for planning a meeting

Action item: Sierra will attend and report back

6. OSRP Airtable review – Goals 26-30 Tania

Starting with #1 to get back on track

#43 – Identify Areas for Acquisition – Letter sent to Select Board from OSRPC.

Polly – Select Board has had no public deliberation so far on the letter from OSRPC. Spinale Property – difficult to develop, should be looked at as well as Archer Street(Haas), and Archer Street (property already through permitting). Polly said that the Town is interested into looking into options.

Hawthorne by the Sea – Owners selling off properties in Boston, what could we offer for open space. Start to think about it. Waterfront – We have masterplan and access to water to be encouraged. Protecting existing open space and possibly additional open space. Any conversations with Hawthorne-by-the-Sea should be private. Goal is to maximize access to the waterfront.

There is a fourth property, Vaughn Place. Not very accessible. There is a network of trails to a park in Lynn.

OSRPC would like to pursue right of first refusal. Polly unsure how that would work legally but has not spoken to town counsel. Town cannot control what a private seller might do. Possibly incentives for going to the Town first. Molly said incentives can’t be used. CPA funds could be used but we never passed it. Conservation restrictions are a better way. CR offers a tax benefit to the seller. It is a simple application to the State. The owner of Archer Street is not in the area but the property is back off the market. Would need an updated land survey. Spinale would be hard to develop. Water and sewer is not all the way up the street. Small but it is greenspace.

Tania requested that Select Board discuss open space acquisition publicly. Agendas are a few weeks out but Polly will work to get it on the agenda.

Airtable #1-Determine number and size of monuments on Monument Ave.

Brian volunteered to be the OSRPC liaison.

Action item: Schedule a meeting with the Historical Commission and Historical District. Molly will coordinate with Richard, Jer and Brian from the respective committees to meet.

Airtable #2 – Carry in/Carry Out Policy – on hold indefinitely

Airtable #3 – Design of roads, light posts etc. focus on Olmstead.

Action item: Michele to provide update at the next meeting.

Airtable #4 – Park landscaping – waiting on plan for Jackson Park – on hold until seawall repairs complete. Poulson and Johnson Parks complete.

Airtable #5 – Already discussed above.

Airtable 6-10 next time

7. Signage – Public Ways/ROW's, Interpretive, and Green Corridor

Review of GIS map sent by Molly. People can add to the map. Molly to work with Toni. Beverly examples around Dane Street Beach area. We can use the same graphics.

Interpretive signage to be installed this Fall. (4 in Olmsted) Locations and installation needs to be approved by Historical District Commission.

8. School Building Committee update Sierra

No real update until after voting.

Town and UU Church have met and have agreed to move toward an agreement using a mediator.

UU is having a membership meeting tonight.

9. Community Development update Marzie and Molly

#4 Johnson Park – design is currently on hold until seawall repairs are complete. Most of the improvements at Johnson Park are subject to Chapter 91 permitting. From Marzie “I strongly believe that we should address storm surge and flooding issues before we make any investments to the park. Town submitted a grant application seeking grant funding for the design of sea wall, but to date we still have not received any notification. “ Planning will update OSRPC as soon as they received any updates.

Phillips Beach/Cassidy Park - Chapter 91 permit was issued. Bid opening was held Wednesday, September 29, 2021. Lowest qualified bidder was JAM Corporation. Notice of award will be issued to JAM this week and construction will start this fall and completed in the spring - in time for beach season. Details of the design can be found on town website (Community Development Department) under community projects. Really just redesigned the entrance and

footwash stations. Molly says the entire entrance will be re-graded to focus on coastal resiliency.

Action item: Molly to send link.

Windsor Park - as previously stated cost estimate exceeds our budget. Working with town accountant to secure the additional funding. Requested support from residents of this neighborhood without much success to date. Submitted a new grant request to assist with ADA compliance at this park. If funded this would provide the gap in funding and allow for construction to start.

Molly said she just submitted grant (to MA Office on Disability) and should know by December. Project is short ~\$20K.

Planning is open to any suggestion from OSRPC of how to address this gap in funding.

Rail Trail – as previously stated, town received \$200,000 in funding to construct the Humphrey to Middle School segment of the trail. This segment is currently on hold due to need for environmental permitting. The design is ongoing. We used part of this funding to purchase two bicycle repair stations. They are scheduled to be delivered in December. We are planning to install one behind the Middle School and one on Humphrey Street near the entrance of the rail trail. Please let Marzie know of other locations.

Ribbon cutting was once again postponed as the Friends of the Swampscott Rail Trail work to enhance the landscaping on the completed sections of the trail. Friends of the Swampscott Rail Trail continue to sell bicycle bells with the Friends logo at the Farmer's Market and hold a bike sale/swap. The bike sale/swap has been successful, and the Friends will continue to offer that service for the remainder of the Farmer's Market season.

Clark Playground – we are starting to work on the redesign of the Clark School Playground at Abbot Park. Due to limited funding, we might have to plan the redesign into 3 phases.

Phase 1: Basketball court- ? should we convert this into pickleball courts? (painting of side yard with 4 square/hopscotch.

Phase 2: Swing set area/small play area

Phase 3: Large play structure with pour in place surfacing

Phase 4: landscaping of corner lot

Angela – Thinks there is some legal restriction on Abbott Park

Danielle – surfacing at Clark courts is old. Need to make parks usable for all ages. Little playground – the surfacing is not safe.

10. Task Force update – Tree Advisory Verena

Update: \$40K for street tree planting in town budget. Letters were sent to all residents on street tree waiting list. 50 people responded and want trees. Gino committed to planting 20 this fall. Gino reaching out to Northeast Nursery to order trees.

2 grants applications to DCR, 50% in-kind match from town, 1 grant for an arborist, heritage tree assessment, and 3-year care plan for part of Veteran's Arboretum.

Other grant for strategic tree planting, 11 trees to replace trees lost on the Town property. Verena showed draft planting map. Tried to use trees that were on the original arboretum list.

Weeping Beech tree was trimmed/amputated. It is one of the heritage trees. Angela recommended a sign "No climbing" like in a botanical garden. The heritage trees need to be better protected. Verena is willing to work on this.

Danielle and Verena to walk the property together.

Issue of Town Hall trees can be added to Airtable but it will not be part of the approved plan.

Working with VFW to plan re-dedication of Veterans' Arboretum.

Developing a walking tour for trees.

Action item: Verena to follow up with Tania and Richard regarding protecting the heritage trees

11. Swampscott Conservancy update Toni and Sierra

Joint program with the Library last week on extreme weather. They will continue to work on coastal issues.

Conservancy and Friends of the Rail Trail working together on "spooky" invasives campaign.

Cleanups at Ewing Woods and Forest River Trail at dog park area. Date TBD

12. Committee/Department update – Conservation Toni

No update

13. Committee/Department update – Rail Trail Michele and Marzie

See above

14. Committee/Department update – Historical Richard

Interpretative signs are in fabrication. Should be in place by December. Includes QR codes for more information.

15. Committee/Department update – Planning Angela

Elm Place coming to Planning Board in November.

FinCom wanted a joint meeting with Planning. Want to review master plans with capital items. Angela had to explain that there is more than one plan. Angela to meet with them on Oct 25.

16. Committee/Department update – Recreation Danielle

Car show was huge and best ever. It was the 10th Swampscott Show. 258 cars there this past Sunday.

17. Other business that may properly come before the committee

None.

18. Confirmation of next meeting date – Tuesday, November 9, 2021 Tania

Adjourned 8:51 PM.