

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting MINUTES – December 14, 2021

Members Present: Tania Lillak (Chair), Sierra Muñoz, Brian Longin, Michele Barden, Richard Smith (Historical Commission), Molly O'Connell (Senior Planner), Verena Karsten (Ad Hoc Member, Tree Task Force)

Not Present:, Marzie Galazka, Danielle Strauss (Recreation Director), Toni Bandrowicz, Polly Titcomb (Select Board), Angela Ippolitto (Planning Board)

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm by Tania Lillak

1. **Minute taker:** Richard

2. **Public comment**

No commenters

3. **Approval of minutes from November 9, 2021 meeting**

Sierra motioned to approve minutes as recorded; Michele second, all approved

4. **Action items from last meeting's minutes:**

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

11/09/21 Update: Gino responded positively to the suggestions. Molly will continue to follow up about implementation.

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

12/14/21 Update: Michele got a fish toxins report from the State; found low concentrations in fish.

Action item: Michele will meet with Marzie on next steps; phosphorus levels in water are quite high.

#65 Kings Beach designation

12/14/21 Update: Molly discussing with town about seawall updates first.

#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 is working with them to try to get logged into the system to move forward.

12/14/21 Update: no further information

#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.

12/14/21 Update: Consultants are doing preliminary geotechnical work at Fisherman's Beach. The asphalt next to the Fish House has been regraded to provide accessible

paths to the renovated toilets. A master plan for the Fish House is being developed. Nothing new from Angela on the Train depot.

Action item: Angela to send an email to Peter regarding Train Depot

New airtable item #69: Develop and publish literature on interaction with wildlife. Discussion re: Animal Control officer position: Town to hire someone new. In the interim reaching out to Dan for help.

12/14/21 Update: Dan is putting together information on interactions with wildlife. The Swampscott Conservancy can work with him; take off Action Items list.

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.

12/14/21 Update: Jer Jurma, Richard and Brian to meet in January to look at how to create a white paper or set of recommendations for placement of future monuments.

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

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

12/14/21 Update: Should Municipal Design Committee work for Humphrey Street be continued into the Olmsted District? Olmsted archives in Brookline has information on Olmsted design standards. Putting electrical service underground would be a great improvement for the district, but very expensive.

5. New business

None.

6. OSRP Airtable review – Goals 6-10

#6 Limit impact of school construction on conservation land on conservation land and other open space.

No action items currently.

#7: Create site specific maintenance programs in collaboration with DPW and Recreation Depts (and include planning for protection of unique flora/fauna) Discussion of Ewing, Palmer, Blightswood areas. Discussion of additional properties; Cassidy Park entrance is being redone as part of Phillips Beach entrance.

Action Item: Toni will review plans and report back to OSRPC.

#8: Develop a partnership/committee that includes representatives from ConCom, Swampscott Conservancy, Tree Task Force, and DPW to cohesively work together on plans for improving and maintaining open space

This is ongoing. Discussion of overlapping conservation goals and partnership opportunities.

Action Item: Toni will send email connecting reps re: partnership.

#9: Ensure provision of playground/green space of the same square footage or more on site if property is re-used

Hadley Re-use Committee has concluded work/submitted recommendations to SB.

Action Item: Molly to provide updates from SB at upcoming meeting.

#10: Explore feasibility and grant opportunities for timber management and invasive species removal for Harold King Forest, as recommended by Forest Stewardship Plan
No action items currently.

7. Blytheswood

There is some question of whether Blytheswood could be on the market relatively soon. The Town has first refusal rights; how can the town prepare for the possibility?

8. School Building Committee update

There is some on-site activity- initial geotechnical assessment. Sustainability Subcommittee will start meeting again on January 13. Sierra will attend.

9. Community Development update

-Johnson Park- Funding has been approved for the initial design work for Eiseman's Beach seawall.

-Phillips Beach/Cassidy Park – as previously stated contract for the work at the Beach entrances was awarded to JAM Construction. There will be mobilization within the next few weeks and work will be on ongoing over the winter (weather pending) and will be 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.

-Need to check with Danielle about better options for bathroom facilities for Phillips. Will have a water and shower station there as part of the new project.

-Windsor Park -stated cost estimate exceeds renovation budget. Have submitted a grant request to seek assist with ADA compliance at this park. If funded this would provide the gap in funding and allow for construction to start. Requesting funding from December Town Meeting.

-Clark Playground – we are starting to work on the redesign of the Clark School Playground at Abbot Park. Due to limited funding, considering planning the redesign in phases.

- Walker Road work will be carried out in the spring; Complete Streets grant needs to be expended by June 30. Will probably stay two way for now, with improvements at intersections and repaving. Pause consideration of one way option until the new school opens and its impacts on traffic patterns can be seen.

9. Task Force update – Tree Advisory

- The DCR grant applications for Town Hall (Heritage Tree Care, Strategic Tree Planting) were submitted.
- \$40k budget appropriation for public shade trees: Fall Planting will start next week. 25 trees arrived and will be planted in front of residents' homes.
- Veteran's Arboretum - 37 bronze plaques were recovered from the carriage house, cleaned and inventoried; collaborating with the Historical Society on this. Will publicize this inventory as a fundraiser for potential replanting and to learn more about its history. Challenge will be to find the right space for replanting.
- Considering a "tree give-away" in the Spring. Smaller trees will be given away to interested homeowners. re: <https://treeboston.org/get-involved/tree-giveaway-program/>. Will discuss with Marzie and OSRPC

10. Swampscott Conservancy update

Recent talks organized as joint program with the UU on extreme weather and community resilience: Tree Equity with Speak for the Trees Boston, Community Climate Resilience with Melanie Garate from Mystic River Watershed Assoc.

The cleanups at Ewing Woods and Forest River Trail at the dog park area were held on Sunday, November 21, and successfully cleared a lot of trash.

11. Committee/Department update – Conservation Toni

No update.

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

Last night's special Town Meeting voted in favor of conveying back the NGrid easement and paving the way for the Select Board to enter into a 99 year ground lease for the Stetson to Humphrey Street of the utility corridor. This is a friendly, and economical way to secure the rights to build the trail on land that is owned and controlled by National Grid.

Funding:

We are still working on the design and plan to submit our 25% plans to MassDOT in January or at the latest in February. Once reviewed by MassDOT, the design will bring us closer to be placed on the federal list of projects for grant funding.

This past year, the Friends of the Swampscott Rail Trail collected and sold bikes at the Farmer's Market. This effort brought in close to \$5,000 in sales and donations for the trail.

This spring, the Swampscott Conservancy will work with the Friends to purchase and plant shrubs and flowers along the newly constructed segment of the trail.

Still waiting for the repair stations - they are scheduled to be delivered in December. The project has not yet been brought to the Conservation Commission.

13. Committee/Department update – Historical Richard

Informational signage has arrived and locations are being review by the Historic District Commission on Thursday.

14. Committee/Department update – Planning Angela

No update.

15. Committee/Department update – Recreation

No update.

16. Other business that may properly come before the committee

None.

17. Confirmation of next meeting date – Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Adjourned 7:55 PM.