

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting MINUTES – February 8, 2022

Members Present: Tania Lillak (Chair), Brian Longin, Toni Bandrowicz, Michele Barden, Marzie Galazka, Sierra Munoz, Richard Smith (Historical Commission), Deb Newman

Not Present: Angela Ippolitto (Planning Board), Danielle Strauss (Recreation)

Public:

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

Minute taker: Michele

AGENDA

1. Minute taker assignment Michele
2. Public comment None
The first 15 minutes of every meeting. Public comment muted for the remainder of the meeting. Tania
3. Approval of minutes from January 11, 2022 Word doc Tania
Sierra motioned to approve, Toni second, approved
4. Action items from last meeting's minutes Tania
Foster Pond

Airtable item #21 (now #29) - Vernal Pools – no updates

Airtable item # 1 - Monuments – Brian Longin

Letter to Select Board – moratorium on new monuments. Where should new memorial and markers to go? Need to provide an option/other locations. Hold letter until finding places in town. Sub-group to do research. Any public art should be considered. Jennifer Harris memorial near Nichols Street.. Review committee for requests. Select Board should be sharing request with Open Space and other organization.

Action Item: Brian to set-up another meeting with Richard Smith and Jer Jurma to brainstorm options.

Airtable item #3 - Develop maintenance and design guidelines for roads, paths, islands, and lighting (add special emphasis on developing design guidelines in Olmsted District) – Michele met with Molly just before she left.

Action Item: Michele to meet with Marzie to figure out how to proceed with design guidelines.

Airtable item #9 - Hadley Reuse Committee – waiting for Select Board for a directive.

Airtable item #12 Windsor Park – was surveyed. There is a paper street that is being encroached. Building inspector drafted cease and desist. Need to survey the street.

Action Item: Toni and Marzie to follow up on Windsor Park.

Airtable item #13 – Howland Park – Gino gave John McLaughlin authority over Howland Park. He does not know if he dealt with invasives. Verena stated the TTF has not addressed invasives. Richard confirmed invasives are still there - Multiflora rose. Hill slope has trees that have fallen. Need to remove.

Action Item: Tania to follow up with John McLaughlin.

Airtable item #15 – Jackson Woods – Swampscott entering partnership with Greenbelt for conservation restriction for Jackson Woods. A survey is needed for conservation restriction. Marzie needs additional funding. Conservation Commission may be able to help fund. Need to find the deed. Will have KP Law to do deed research.

Action Item: Marzie to have KP Law to do deed research and approach ConCom for funding.

Airtable item #11 - Seawall – Seawall not complete. Town has spent \$1.2M and still have \$1.5 M in repairs left. Contingent on funding. Gino looking for funding sources. Town money, FEMA, Municipal Assistance

5. New business

Airtable Goal #67&68 – Brian met with Swampscott High. Dennis Kohut, high school principal, will gather interested students from the Green Scholars. Likely not for credit but community service. Need to formalize. Toni – assign students to committees and give tasks. What's the plan for the next steps? Open Space, Conservation, Conservancy and Tree Task Force all interested in assistance. Look at objects and select projects. Develop clear objectives and follow-up. Do not expect the teachers to be responsible.

Action Item: Brian to follow up with Mr. Kohut.

6. OSRP Airtable review – Goals 16-20 Tania

Airtable #16 – Encourage continue use of Town Hall as gathering spot. Ongoing.

Airtable #17 – Identify and protect designated historic sites –
Train Depot – Marzie said the town was in discussion with the T and T Realty on long-term lease for Town Depot structure. Waiting on a draft lease. T wanted the town to move the depot but nowhere available to move it.

Airtable #18 - Incorporate open space goals into planning
Land use summit being organized with MAPC assistance. All town boards related to land use will be invited. Likely late summer or early fall.

Airtable #19 - Address light pollution at night in open spaces – Concern about lights at Town Hall. some involvement with Conservancy. Open space could send a letter to say lighting should be guidelines. Some town guidelines/zoning law.

Action Item: Tania to follow up with Marzie

Airtable #20 - Dedicate all town open space, recreation through easements etc....
Only 19 acres left in town. Land use summit in late summer or early fall.

7. Goal #8 – Sign off/checklist P&P for committees/depts re: open space. Toni and Tania.

Toni sent email. Trying to coordinate with planning and building dept. MACC Handbook. Some communities have found check off lists helpful to make sure all boards are involved before permitting complete. Who gets a project first? Marzie will add Open Space to notification for planning and zoning.

Marzie mentioned the new field use committee to figure who belongs - Athletic Field Advisory Committee. Should open space be on the committee? This is not a new committee - Danielle is on the committee. Tania will check in with her and make sure that Open Space is being informed of organic field maintenance.

Tania this goal is more related to what DPW is doing (i.e. tree task force not notified about tree trimming at town hall). Is there a site or calendar for notification? Very challenging. How do you make sure Open Space is aware of related decisions on other committees? Revisit next meeting.

Action Item: Tania to follow up with Danielle and revisit next meeting.

8. Property Acquisition update Tania

A draft letter to the Select Board was reviewed. Reiterated importance of open space. Marzie gave an update on Archer St property. MassHousing told the proponent to go back to the drawing board. Said it was out of scale. They can revise and re-submit. Per their atty, they are reevaluating all their options. Not very accessible. Project is on hold and waiting to see what the proponent may do. Chances of acquiring the property. Would this owner sell to the town?

Acquire priority across the street. Son of owner did reach out to the select board. 0 Archer Street. Behind Clark playground. West side of Archer.

1970s report going on Con Com website. Hawthorne property. Blythewood property. Partnership with Greenbelt can be helpful.

Motion: Tania asked for a motion to approve the letter to the Select Board. Motion proposed by Toni, Sierra second, Unanimous in favor.

9. School Building/Sustainability Committee update Sierra

Next School Building Committee mtg 2/15, still doing geotechnical work. Toni sent letter. Suzanne Wright acknowledged letter. Security consultant is recommending fence between school and Ewing Woods. Toni spoke with Max Kasper, SBC going to file with ConCom by end of the month. ConCom hired peer reviewer, but peer reviewer was not allowed on Church site. Likely March ConCom meeting. Peer Reviewer had trouble with access and looking at weather. Needs permission from the Church for access to property.

10. Community Development update Marzie

Grant season is around the corner. Waiting on funding for seawall at Eiseman's Beach. Johnson Park on hold until resiliency work is done. Work at Phillips and Cassidy Beach is starting this season, just waiting for storm season to pass. Pier at Fishermen's; contractor and harbor committee met with State and Federal regulators. Especially concerned with eel grass.

11. Task Force update – Tree Advisory Verena

Verena will have an update for the next meeting

12. Swampscott Conservancy update Toni and Sierra

Colleen and Suzanne working with Neil Duffy on pollinator gardens. Maybe tool kits. Hike this Saturday at Steer Swamp. Girl Scout project at Muskrat Pond (Clean-up) and bird blind at Harold King. Harold King – conservation restriction on AI property so building a new trail. (Girl scout/Eagle scout) Kings Beach Panel Discussion (Chris Mancini, Michael Sm, Brendon Creighton and maybe Jeff Vaughn)

13. Committee/Department update – Conservation Toni

SBC update, nothing else major

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

New design team working on Geotech work to get to 25% design, waiting for better weather. Working with developers at Elm Place to have landing place on Pitman Road. All schools will be connected. Working with the Conservancy to include native plantings. Town received the donation of 3 sculptures and likely to be sited on rail trail. Sculptures of children. Maybe new school. Newburyport has sculptures on their trail. Forage garden.

15. Committee/Department update – Historical Richard

Waiting weather on installation of informational signs.

16. Committee/Department update – Planning Angela – next meeting

17. Committee/Department update – Recreation Danielle – next meeting

18. Other business that may properly come before the committee None

19. Confirmation of next meeting date – March 8, 2022 Tania

Next meeting rescheduled to March 22, 2022

8:47 pm Meeting Adjourned.