

## Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting MINUTES – March 9, 2021

**Members Present:** Tania Lillak (Chair); Tonia Bandrowicz (Vice Chair); Verena Karsten; Richard Smith; Sierra Muñoz; Michele Barden; Molly O’Connell (Senior Planner); Angela Ippolito (Planning Board Rep); and Danielle Strauss (Recreation Director)

**Not present:** Marzie Galazka

**Public:** Ken and Gayle Stoll

Meeting called to order at 7:06 pm by Tania Lillak.

1. **Minute taker:** Toni Bandrowicz
2. **Public Comment:** Ken and Gayle Stoll attended the meeting to find out if there were any updates on Johnson Park. Molly said that the Town was still waiting to hear back from the Mass. Dept. Env. Protection; no definite date on when that will happen.
3. **Approval of February 9, 2021 Minutes:** Committee unanimously voted to adopt the February 9, 2021 minutes (with correction on the date of last approved minutes). Sierra moved to accept, Angela seconded.
4. **Action items from review of Air Table items at last meeting:**

**Item #1** For the Conservation Restrictions for Jackson Woods, Molly explains that need to go through state approval process as well as Town Meeting. She is meeting with Marzie, and will figure out if need a survey or other additional information on property.

**Acton item:** Molly will keep the Committee updated.

**Item #2** Gino has been out, so need to check with him on the issue of DCR takeover of Kings Beach.

**Acton item:** Check with Gino.

**Item #3** Toni reports that the Conservancy is moving ahead (likely in Spring, and maybe with Girl Scout assistance) on blazing a new trail around the boulder field.

**Item #5** Regarding placement of monuments on Monument Av., Angela recalls that a document had been drafted in the past on Olmsted’s vision for the Ave. as grassy place to stroll, and that Monument Ave. is named after the Civil War Monument, and not intended as a place to put additional monuments. Perhaps this document can be updated?

**Acton item:** Angela will find the document and circulate to the Committee.

**Action item:** Richard will contact the Historical Commission and the Historic District Commission on their potential roles in this.

5. **Discussion of next five Air Table items:**

**Item #6** (Develop and publish information on human interaction with wildlife.) Toni suggests getting the new Animal Control Officer, Dan Proulx, involved as he has background in this area and may have interest. Noted that Police Station giving out coyote whistles.

**Action item:** Toni will contact Dan Proulx, and cc Molly.

**Item #7** (Develop maintenance and design guidelines for roads, paths, islands, and lighting (add special emphasis on developing design guidelines in Olmsted District). Noted that this is broad, and some items captured in other objectives and further consideration needed.

**Item #8** (Develop map highlighting areas where zoning regulations should be created to limit negative impact of land use development.

**Action item:** Molly and Angela will look to see what other communities may be doing.

**Item #9** (Develop park landscaping utilizing beach-appropriate and environmentally-suitable species and materials.) Specific reference is made to Polisson, Chaisson and Johnson Parks. Already noted that Town is waiting to hear from DEP on Johnson Park and believe Chaisson and Pollison Parks were done as part of the Beach Entrance work.

**Action item:** Angela will check to see if further work on entrance to the beach at Polisson still needs to be completed.

**Item #10** (Develop plan for replacement of aged/ailing street trees) Verena informs Committee that there is only \$10,000 in the budget each year for tree replacement which allows for 30 trees to be planted, however, in some years, Town loses 60-70 trees. Many homeowners want trees planted in front of their homes, there's long waiting list.

**Action item:** Angela and Verena trying to get more money allocated in the budget.

Verena also noted that as the 2016 tree inventory is static, the **Tree Advisory Task Force** is working on creating an inventory that can be updated. Discussed that maybe this could be a High School GIS project.

**Action item** – Verena will contact school, try to find a student to assist.

Mentioned that National Grid doesn't take care when trimming trees. Noted that Nat'l Grid is subject to new Tree Bylaw.

**Action item** – Verena will raise at next **Tree Advisory Task Force** meeting writing a letter to Nat'l Grid.

6. **2020 OSRP:** Molly reports that she's waiting for letter of support from the Select Board. She will figure out if we need to have another meeting with Board.

7. **Community Development:**

- Johnson Park is already discussed above.
- The Windsor park – the preliminary redesign is being prepared; a public meeting will be held in April.
- Phillips Beach – has gone through Conservation Commission. Because of revised delineation of dunes, changes were made to the project, no structures allowed on the dunes.
- The Town has received a grant for improvements to walkability and bicycle travel on Walker Road. But as its MassDOT money, can only do work on roads, sidewalks; a later phase will deal with the open space at the entrance to Walker Rd. off Paradise. The design s being tweaked; community meeting will be held first week of April, notice to go out next week.

8. **School Building Committee:** Sierra reports there is no new update on the Sustainability Subcommittee, but additional money for environmental studies and other matters was approved at a special Town Meeting.

Toni noted that SBC wants to come to next Conservation Commission meeting, but she explained since there is no formal filing, the Comm. can't give any approvals. She is trying to organize a group meeting of Comm., Open Space, and Conservancy with SBC to discuss the comments letters all three have sent to the SBC.

**Action item:** Sierra will look into the question raised as to whether the SBC used Ewing Woods in calculating the ratio of open space for the project.

9. **Tree Advisory Task Force :** Verena reported that the Town is applying for DCR Heritage Tree grant for town hall property. She noted that a Beech tree on the property was lost, and Town will be doing a fundraiser to plant new tree.

10. **Organic lawn maintenance:** Gino has talked to Sport Turf Specialists telling them Town's commitment to go organic; when they give him a plan, he will share with Open Space.

11. **Swampscott Conservancy update:** Working with Danielle on organizing hikes and blazing a new trail in Harold King.

12. **Hadley School Reuse Advisory Committee:** Verena reports that community survey is out now; subgroups are meeting, public can attend those meetings, info is on Town website.

13. **Conservation Commission:** The Rail Trail project hearing may resume in April; Toni notes that Commission has list of long-term goals she'll share with Open Space.

14. **Rail Trail:** Michele helping organize a clean up.

15. **Historical Commission:** Will be getting the prototype for signage.

16. **Planning:** Angela reports that new zoning amendments will be presented at Spring Town Meeting. She also notes that there is undeveloped property for sale off Spinale Rd. that Town should consider buying.

17. **Recreation** – Danielle is planning to organize an event(s) for Earth Day, e.g., hiding Geocaches and awarding gift cards for finders; weekend hike near the date; story boards. What can Open Space do?

18. **Grants** – no updates.

19. **Green Corridor** – Tania and Toni will try to organize a meeting with Gino now that weather is better, and he's back.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 7 pm

**Adjournment:** Motion by Michelle, second by Richard. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm