

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting MINUTES – April 13, 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)

Not present: Marzie Galazka, Danielle Strauss (Recreation Director)

Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm by Tania Lillak.

1. **Minute taker:** Angela Ippolito
2. **Public Comment:** 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. Dan Proulx: (from goal **#6** “Develop and publish information on human interaction with wildlife.” Toni spoke with Dan Proulx, he’s interested. He discussed how bat houses were causing trash problems, he’s interested in having worm farms to feed birds.

Action item: Toni will stay in touch with him and provide any updates.

4. **Approval of March 9, 2021 Minutes:** Committee unanimously voted to adopt the March 9, 2021 minutes (with correction on the date of last approved minutes). Richard moved to accept, Angela seconded.
5. **Action items from review of Air Table items at last meeting:**

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

Acton item: DCR didn’t want to take it over until seawall is done, and work is ongoing at Kings. Molly to check with Gino and Richard to check with Historical Commission.

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. Troop has “cleared” the new trail.

Action item: Toni will update when it is ready and blazed.

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?

Action item: Angela will find the document and circulate to the Committee. Angela promises to follow up.

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

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.
and

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. Chaisson (Fisherman's Beach Entry) and Pollison (Whale Beach Entry) Parks were done as part of the Beach Entrance work. Repair and restoration of existing plantings, and additional grasses were added to Eiseman's and Polison.

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 a long waiting list. Angela confirms that \$40,000.00 has been requested for FY2022 by CIC; finance committee will be voting on this by end of April.

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. **No response yet; will follow up.**

6. **New Business:** Verena moving in about a year, wants to ease off of some committee work, she would like to stay involved but perhaps as associate member. She will remain on Tree Task force, will continue to report as its chair.

Action Item: Angela will double check on associate member status for OSRC.

7. **2020 OSRP Airtable Review:** Molly received response from state and got conditional approval. Molly will bring back another draft for edits. One of the things that (person from state) said is that we could expand timing to 7 years. Community checkpoints to do outreach to community upcoming.

Action Item: Molly will work on edits and get to us when she can after TM

Airtable #11 Develop maintenance equipment for all school and town playground. Toni has a form we can use but we might want to check with Danielle on that. Molly said she'll coordinate with Danielle so they can get better at Capital Planning

Action Item: Molly will check with Danielle

Airtable #12. Develop web to print trail maps with info on access and enviro protections. We do one for Conservancy for Forest River. Molly said we have an older one from Harold King that needs to be updated. Molly says we have an R1 unit in DPW GPS unit that pairs with GIS app. Can use for trees trails etc. Toni has a map from Norwood that she can circulate to everyone.

Action Item: Sierra – was one of her projects, she mimicked one from Norwood. “design” she will dig it out. Coordinate will Molly on what she has on her desktop. Uniguide Should we create map that links to a QR code that could be posted at sign. A beefier map to download

Airtable #13. Encourage continued use of TH as gathering spot

Airtable #14. Work with Disability Commission to improve ADA recreational needs

Molly: Two pathways: ADA assessment and transition plan, select board needs to approve/adopt plan. Pursuing funding for infrastructure upgrade for public buildings and public spaces
Danielle working on programming for all abilities

Action Item: check on status of Disability Commission, have a meeting or conversation about thoughts and ideas

Airtable #15. Make sure town completes necessary storm drain work

Presentation online: March 9 Phase one coming in before schedule and below budget – ongoing – does this really belong on plan?

8. **Conservation Restriction:** Molly explained that a proposed Conservation Restriction for Jackson Woods would need to go through state approval process as well as Town Meeting. Definitely need to have survey done. Molly will hear back from state re: survey for municipally owned properties vs private, (meets & bounds). What are the boundaries that the OSRP is thinking of including? Select Board should prevent development in perpetuity. Get estimate on what a survey costs by looking at the one we just did for Johnson Park (Marzie/Molly to get estimate for Jackson Park).

Acton item: Molly will keep the Committee updated.

9. **Community Development:**

- Johnson Park is already discussed above.

Had to do survey work for contours. Completed. That was to determine permitting, ch 91. Want to see final plans.

- The Windsor park – the preliminary redesign is being prepared; a public meeting will be held in April. Reviewing for pricing and feasibility. Will bring to OS for review, estimate came in over. Its for matching funds, got parc grant from state
 - 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. Meeting will take place in June. Haven't seen final design for Phillips, Marzie will get to us. Johnson Park also, pending state permitting. Need to see all final designs.
 - The Town has received a grant for improvements to walkability and bicycle travel on Walker Road. **Molly updated us:** Had neighborhood meeting April 5. Had about 70 attendees and lots of comments. Did Marzie send updated Walker Road design with island. Testing one way segments. Probably do more traffic study. There is a proposed center island at Banks/Walker intersection, 3 different design iterations. Is this necessary if Walker is one way? See project page online for testing dates and community meetings. Out to bid at end of year, build 2022. Input from cyclists are residents that use the roads. MAPC resource, people for bikes. Should be more focused on pedestrians cyclists.
8. **School Building Committee:** SBC met with Open space, conservancy, meetings focused on energy sustainability, HVAC system options, cost, emissions, wants to vote on which of those they want to choose. Down to 2 geothermal heat pumps fan coils; some geothermal, hybrid water sources. Difference of initial cost vs maintenance cost. How much open space, conservation land will need to be baked in. UU Church very concerned. Didn't sound like they had a wetlands consultant on task.
 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 fund raiser is on-going. Opportunities for marketing are Earth day, Arbor day, April 30, select a tree Linscott Park commemorative tree program. Verena will share program with all. DCR app for grant for veterans arboretum.
 10. **Organic lawn maintenance:** Gino confirms that plan is in place, work has been arranged and actual work will be done by a private company. Gino will email all the details.
 11. **Swampscott Conservancy update:** Hike planned May 15, adopting traffic island at Paradise and Elmwood. Native plants at cemetery, working with Danielle on other hikes. Some people at first church are really active, Sue Burgess. Sierra will introduce Verena. Annual members meeting April 28.
 12. **Hadley School Reuse Advisory Committee:** Verena reports that Survey results are in...almost 800 people making community use and and open space top prioritites. Demo annex? Parking and expand open space.

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. As of April 13 meeting, Toni reports that they are Waiting for rail trail to come back.
14. **Rail Trail:** Michele helping organize a clean up. Update on making it a safe event with BofH, will need update.
15. **Historical Commission:** Will be getting the prototype for signage. Working on graphics, type fonts.
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. Admin & procedures Elm Place updates next meeting April 29, Town meeting May 17; 8 new zoning amendments will be proposed. Woods Hole group webinar on Thursday April 15 re: zoning amendments to address sea level rise.
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? 2 earth day events
18. **Grants** – no updates. Potential land acquisition. MAPC hope to get funding for Hazard Mitigation Plan. "One stop" program for Housing Production Plan.
19. **Green Corridor** – Tania and Toni will try to organize a meeting with Gino now that weather is better, and he's back. Met with Gino, Toni wants to do more research on options and will have more time to discuss next month. Verena, paving plan, can we coordinate with that to make streets more friendly. Longer term stuff is hardscape, is there some kind of pathway that could be put down to indicate a pathway. Maybe more long term, when Gino is laying pipes? What are other communities doing? Molly: tie funding for Walker Rd to complete streets funding. Allocation from state from roads typically not enough, what are our allocation sources? Can have a fuller discussion next time.

Thank you so much to Verena!!!

Next Meeting: May 11, 2021, 7 pm

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