

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting MINUTES – May 10, 2022

Members Present: Tania Lillak (Chair), Toni Bandrowicz, Sierra Muñoz, Richard Smith (Historical Commission), Verena Karsten

Not Present: Brian Longin, Danielle Strauss (Recreation) Marzie Galazka, Angela Ippolito

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

1. Minute taker assignment: Sierra Muñoz

2. Public comment: none

3. Approval of minutes from April 12, 2022 Sierra motioned to approve, Toni second, approved.

4. Action items from last meeting's minutes

1. Brian and committee members shared project lists with high school students. Toni followed up on request for native plant policies from Green Scholars teacher, by sharing Conservancy's proposed policy (never adopted) and native plant list recommendations for the Adopt a Traffic Island on town website.

Franci (Green Scholars) updated that they are working on a brochure with information about native plants and recommendations; will share the draft soon. Verena asked about potential Tree Walk project (self-guided tour) – part of DCR tree task force grant.

Action Item: Tania will follow up with Franci about native plant project; Brian or Toni will follow up with Petey about projects.

2. Update on the monument: Jer, Richard, Brian met for ongoing efforts in mapping and cataloging potential locations. Will have to edit letter and attempt to provide draft products next meeting. Verena mentioned a monument being voted on by Select Board.

Action Item: Brian to have draft product by next meeting.

13. Howland Park: Tania following up, John McLaughlin believes tree removal is too difficult and dangerous for DPW. No answer yet from John McLaughlin regarding the multi flora removal. Toni said we may need to make a capital request. Problem is on the slope says Richard. Maybe Gino can do it with staff. Gino could put in budget. Verena thinks bigger issue are the fallen trees that looks bad. Would be good to get up there then replant some of the hill to make it nicer. TTF next meeting is April 12th. Tania did follow up but awaiting reply.

Action Item: Tania to follow up with Gino again re: DPW tree removal.

15. Jackson Woods – deed research - Marzie said KP law (town consultant) was slow getting back and requested information, if available, on when town acquired property.

Toni gave Marzie info on the easement aggregate granted to town for soccer field which had some deed info in it. Since town can't find deed, hoping that KP Law may be able to locate so can move forward to make conservation land.

Action Item: Toni to follow up on deed research for Jackson Woods. Still in progress.

19. Tania – light pollution causing some concern re: the building lighting at TH. Angela thought the spot lights were solar but not sure. Municipal street lights should have hooding for night sky.

Action Item: Angela to follow up with Marzie. Still in progress.

8. How do we collaborate and Coordinate with different committees? Tania starting to send minutes Gino and Polly. Maybe an Annual meeting? Checklists? Information portal that all committees contribute to? Best practices from other towns would probably be helpful.

Action Item: Research best practices from other towns – suggested asking Marissa to look into. Toni to check with Angela. Still in progress.

9. Goal #39: Athletic Field Advisory Committee was disbanded and is now the Athletic Field Use Committee. Danielle is no longer on this committee as she does not schedule the fields. Is this just a football field oversight committee? Marzie said they oversee the programming of all town fields, including maintenance. The School Athletic Department oversees scheduling. Tania emailed Marzie to see if the OSRPC should be on this committee for the organic lawn program. Marzie said she would speak to Gino and find out more.

Action Item: Tania to follow up with Marzie after she speaks to Gino about Field Use committee. Tania to follow up.

23. Develop map of areas for zoning regs to identify areas to limit negative impacts of land development- need a bigger discussion

Action Item: ANGELA to look at Site Plan Regs. Tabled until next meeting.

25. Educate coastal property owners that they on ways to protect their homes from storms. Kleinfelder prepared info for ConCom, Molly put it in to brochure, ConCom members had edits, preparing redraft, almost a check off! Toni sent a copy of the draft brochure to OSRPC. Toni and ConCom to work on finalizing brochure and will follow-up.

Action Item: ConCom discussing non-filing issues on the 25th will be talking about the brochure.

27. Establish a winter salt management program to protect open space (alternative to salt). Need to sit down with Gino. Tania spoke with Verena about the trees effected by salt. Salt should be placed properly. Gino directed by police department. Verena spoke with Gino at TTF meeting. Discussion at meeting about salting policies and environmental concerns. Verena highlighted the salt reduction goals in the 2021 Stormwater Management Plan.

Action Item: Toni will send a message to Gino to start conversation about salting policies.

29. Identify and certify potential vernal pools. Toni received emails from someone who has observed salamanders at the church. As far as Toni knows, Erica (Conservancy member applying for vernal pool certifications) hasn't received state certification yet. Sierra to speak with her this week. Toni thought Erica was looking for more vernal pools, not just church area. ONGOING.

Action Item: Sierra to confirm if any Erica about updates from the State.

5. New Business

-Michelle Barden has resigned from OSRPC effective immediately. Tania has reached out for a list of new volunteer applications.

-Green Corridor/Burpee Road conversation – Burpee Road is being prepared for paving; prompted discussion about connecting about future paving/projects to provide input on making community awareness of connectors for Green Corridor. Discussion about how to approach future paving efforts on Green Corridor and other municipal design.

6. OSRP Airtable review – Goals 31-35

31. Limit the impact of harbor dredging on eelgrass beds.

Toni discussed Harbor Plan – current plan includes a new pier; town received grant to do pier study, consultant had developed proposed designs; consultant was aware of eelgrass issues. Recent meeting held with town consultant and Harbor Advisory and state and federal regulators; concerns raised on effects of new pier designs on eel grass beds, including noting that the existing eelgrass distribution data was dated. Harbor pier project will have to come before Con Comm; pier proposal is being monitored by state and federal regulators.

32. Conduct assessment; develop control plan for invasive species.

Con Comm has passed a policy simplifying removal of knotweed in areas under Con Comm's jurisdiction.

Action Item: Toni will send bulletin for knotweed removal.

33. Develop local wetlands protection by-law that compliments the state Wetlands Protection Act. This is long term project of the ConCom.

34. Develop a native planting policy for municipal properties.

See above re: Green Scholars. Municipal native planting plan was not embraced by the town for formal planting spaces. Effort ongoing.

35. Implement recommendations to improve flora and fauna from Harold King Forest Stewardship Management Plan.

DCR Management plan recommends cutting of trees but needs to be professionally done; this hasn't been addressed by Conservancy.

7. Property Acquisition update

Tania reached out to Polly but no response.

Action Item: Tania will ask Neil who the OSRPC SB liaison is.

8. School Building/Sustainability Committee update: Sierra and Toni

No Sustainability subcommittee meeting since the April OSRPC. Conservation Commission permit issued with over 70 conditions but appealed to DEP by abutters. DEP is doing a site visit May 17. Earth Removal drafted a permit last week; SB meeting last week; SB sent suggested changes and select board will meet to vote on issuance.

11. Community Development update Tania/Marzie

Beach entrances are almost done.

Windsor Park – construction is underway.

Marzie requested funding to resurface Clark(Abbott) basketball court. It is listed in the warrant for funding.

Marzie is working with the Friends of the Swampscott Rail Trail on locations to install two bike repair stations.

Marzie heard from a resident that would like us to install signage at 40 steps. This was discussed. It was decided that 40 steps should have a street sign.

Action Item: Tania to contact Gino re: 40 steps street sign.

12. Task Force update – Tree Advisory Committee Verena

Received 40K from Town for tree planting; had spent 14K which eliminated the waiting list for trees; looking at list of priorities (canopy coverage). Continued working on existing grants. White Oak tree giveaway at Swampscott Earth Day event last weekend was a success.

13. Swampscott Conservancy update Toni & Sierra

Held Annual Meeting; elected officers. Native Plant Sale will be at the first farmer Marzie and Sierra working on Rain Barrel; Pollinator Garden tour at Swampscott Historical event this summer and

14. Conservation Commission Update Toni

ConCom had previously hired peer reviewer who commented on Town's proposal. Anticipated that an updated NOI (application) submission will be forthcoming from the town for the Con Comm. On May 26, ConCom meeting to discuss non-filing matters.

15. Committee/Department update – Historical Richard

Informational signs for town hall and Linscott Park (gazebo) are up. Will be mounting sign at Fish House and future sign planned for lilac garden. Toni has requested signage for White Court (1 at entrance of Little's Point, path/map, and 1 near the water re: history/easement info).

19. Confirmation of next meeting date – June 14, 2022 on Zoom Tania