

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting MINUTES – June 7, 2022

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

Not Present: Danielle Strauss (Recreation) Marzie Galazka, Angela Ippolito, Verena Karsten

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

1. Minute taker assignment: Richard Smith

2. Public comment: none

3. Approval of minutes from May 10, 2022 Sierra motioned to approve, Richard seconded, approved.

4. Action items from last meeting's minutes

1. Student interns; Yaroslava will work on the rodenticide project; Toni and Brian will meet with her in the near future to discuss the work. Franci- No update on her native plants brochure project.

Action Item: Toni and Brian will meet with Yaroslava about her project. Tania to follow up with Franci.

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 and Richard will meet to work on letter draft and inventory of potential sites.

13. Howland Park: Gino says the DPW is too busy with tree planting work right now to do anything about the fallen trees on the slope. Follow up in the fall

Action Item: Tania to follow up with Gino in the fall re: DPW tree removal.

15. Jackson Woods – Deed research is still in progress; Dick Simmons, a Conservancy member, is helping with the research.

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

19. Light pollution – Tabled for now.

8. How do we collaborate and coordinate with different committees? – Still thinking about best way to do this. In progress.

23. Zoning regulation for negative impacts – Tabled; no update from Angela.

25. Educate coastal property owners that they on ways to protect their homes from storms – Toni said the brochure is being revised and will be sent out soon.

27. Establish a winter salt management program to protect open space (alternative to salt)

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

29. Identify and certify potential vernal pools – Tabled for now.

5. New Business

-Yaroslava Shirayeva, a student volunteer was in attendance and was re-introduced to the committee.

-Tania has reached out to Dianne Marchese, the new volunteer coordinator for the town, for a list of new volunteer applications.

-The Committee was contacted by a citizen requesting a street sign for Forty Steps. Request was passed to Marzie, who has contacted Gino to follow up.

-Brian Longin has contacted the new recreation coordinator, Jacki Camerlengo, about starting a beach volleyball program,

6. OSRP Airtable review – Goals 36-40

36. Bird nesting boxes.

Wood duck boxes were installed at the Harold King forest last year; this year the Girl Scouts are building a birding blind. Toni to write an article for the town newsletter.

37. Work with DPW to develop a green infrastructure policy.

The Town is working on stormwater control; incorporate into green corridor planning.

Action Item: Discuss with the Town Administrator and DPW director- Toni and Brian to contact the Town.

38. No dumping signs.

Add one by Muskrat Pond. Someone has been dumping trash in the adjacent wetland. Toni to contact Max about whether a camera could be set up to identify the person.

39. Reduce pesticide use.

Athletic Field Advisory Committee was disbanded and is now the Athletic Field Use Committee. Marzie met with Gino and that new committee has not met yet. Gino said the OSRPC is welcome to be a part of it for the organic field initiative. Gino said that

organic program has been going well. He is not doing the organic program on the monument strip lawn. John McLaughlin, who plants flowers there, does not want to see any weeds on that lawn. Tania expressed frustration with not doing the organic program on all lawns in town.

Action Item: Tania to follow up with Gino to see what lawns in town he is doing the organic program on.

40. Reduce sprinkler use

Action Item: Tania to follow up with Gino to see what the current sprinkler policy is.

7. Property Acquisition update

Tania asked Neal a who the OSRPC SB liaison is, but that has not been determined yet. The wording of the warrant Article #1 for acquisition of the Hawthorne property and the Archer Street property is a matter of concern; it appears to give the Town a lot of latitude to use the acquired property for uses other than open space. "including but not limited to" language is concerning; Angela Ippolito had similar concerns. Since the wording is already in the published warrant, would it have to be amended by vote on the floor of Town Meeting? Could conservation restriction language be added? OSRPC would like to see the Archer Street parcel preserved as forest.

Action item: Tania will contact Neal Duffy of the Select Board ASAP

8. Community Development update Marzie

Rehabilitation of Windsor playground is ongoing and should be completed by the end of the month. Project includes new swing set, play structure, rubber safety surface and new park furniture (park benches and receptables). Marzie would like to plan a grand opening of this park this summer. OSRPC would like to participate.

This year, as part of the CIC/town annual budget funding was requested to resurface the basketball court at Clark (Abbot Park). The town's goal is leverage these funds in a grant application for park improvements at Abbott that will include new swing set, safety surfacing and play structures for younger age group. Marzie is hopeful that Town Meeting will fund the CIC as planned. Grant application is due on 07/14. Community development might ask OSRPC for a support letter.

Rail Trail – The town's application for TIP funding (\$8.9 Million) was approved. These funds will support and fund the Bradlee to Stetson section of the Rail Trail. Later this month we will be submitting the 25% design of the trail to MassDOT and then we will start the NOI process with the ConCom.

Once again this year we are offering the rain barrels from the Great American Rain Barrel. Orders close on June 30. Please share the information to order a barrel: <https://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community/> Barrels will be dropped off at the DPW yard (220 Paradise Road) on July 9, 2022.

9. Swampscott Conservancy update Toni & Sierra

Marzie and Sierra working on Rain Barrel program, with orders due by June 30. Native Plant Sale will be at the first farmers market. Pollinator Garden tour at Swampscott Historical event June 26. Reach Arts garden tour July 10. The Conservancy also participated in the planting of a “microforest” at the Paradise and Walker Road intersection.

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

No updates.

11. Task Force update – Tree Advisory Committee Verena

No updates.

12. Conservation Commission Update Toni

The Conservation Commission’s decision on the elementary school project was appealed, but the State DEP denied the appeal and issued superseding Orders of Conditions that essentially reaffirmed the Cons Comm determinations. The Select Board has issued an Earth removal Permit.

The Rail Trail will come back to ConCom in the near future.

ConCom is issuing an enforcement order against work at 100 Phillips Beach Avenue that was initiated without applying to the Commission.

13. Committee/Department update – Historical Richard

Jonathan Leamon is working on an informational sign for White Court on the public easement near the water that will include history/easement info.

14. Planning

No update

15. Recreation

No update

17. Confirmation of next meeting date – July 12, 2022 on Zoom

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm.