

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting MINUTES – June 8, 2021

Members Present: Tania Lillak (Chair), Toni Bandrowicz (Vice Chair), Richard Smith, Sierra Muñoz, Marzie Galazka (Community Development Director)

Not Present: Michele Barden, Angela Ippolito (Planning Board Rep), Danielle Strauss (Recreation Director), Molly O’Connell (Senior Planner)

Public: Gayle Stoll

Meeting called to order at 7:36 pm by Tania Lillak

1. **Minute taker:** Sierra Muñoz
2. **Public Comment:** Gayle Stoll asked for clarification on the survey mentioned for Johnson Park and the 100K approved for Johnson Park at Town Meeting.
3. **Approval of minutes from May 11, 2021:** Sierra moves to approve minutes from 5/11/21 meeting as written; Toni seconded, all approved.
4. **Action Items from Last Meeting’s Minutes:**
 - a. Ribbon Cutting: Harold King Forest ribbon cutting took place on June 4 for new trail blazed by Girl Scouts.
 - b. Toni shared an idea for an initiative with animal rehabilitation volunteer and
 - c. Richard forwarded along materials from Angela to Historical Commission. HBC needs to have oversight over changes or permanent plaques and placements in the historic districts; will explore what alternative places in town there could be for memorials. Angela shared notes re: signage and recommendations.

Action Item: OSRP and Historical Commission should meet to discuss plaques, signage.

- d. Tania and Michele walked along Monument Ave. and Olmsted District to brainstorm guidelines for roadways, lighting.
- e. Angela and Molly will revisit in the fall a plan to develop a map highlighting areas where zoning regulations should be created to limit negative impact of landuse development. Open space zoning may provide more protection than current zoning. Revisit in the Fall.

Action Items carried over to next meeting:

Item #9 – Develop park landscaping utilizing beach-appropriate and environmentally-suitable species and materials. Specific references to Polisson, Chaisson and Johnson Parks.

Action Item: Ongoing Action Item: Waiting for Johnson Park.

Item #11 – Maintenance list for all school and town playgrounds.

Action Item: Tania will send maintenance list for all school and town playgrounds.

Item #12 – Trail Maps. Angela showed Marblehead map.

Action Item: Quote to hire someone. Follow up with Molly.

Item #14 – Disability Commission, ADA transition plan as part of Open Space Plan.

Action Item: No update yet from Select Board. Molly to find out status of Disability Commission

5. New business

- a. Lilac Garden: Elizabeth Smith started process of getting volunteers organized for Lilac Garden; Tania has discussed Open Space involvement with her.

Action Item: Tania will send applications for OSRP members to the current members for discussion.

6. OSRP Airtable review – Goals 16-20

- a. Tabled

7. 2020 OSRPC

- a. 2020 OSRPC Plan has been approved by the state of MA; the new plan is in effect until 2028.

8. Conservation Restriction – Jackson Woods

- a. Molly's updates: Spoke with the state, we do need to do a survey to determine exact location of restriction
- b. The restriction itself must be in the hands of a private/non-profit entity. Process would need a vote at Town Meeting

Action Item: Toni will follow up with Molly re: what entity would need to have oversight over Conservation restriction in Jackson Woods.

9. Green Corridor: Toni met with Gino to review the Green Corridor

Action Item: Toni and Tania will check on follow up with Gino re: Green Corridor and what needs to be done short term. Need to include Michelle and/or tie into #7, design guidelines.

10. Community Development

- a. Johnson Park: Johnson Park Design: the last update was that environmental survey work was being done to understand which segments of the park would be subject to additional coastal permitting. Currently awaiting finalizing of that report, and have applied for grant funding to reinforce the seawall; OSRPC has raised importance of coastal resiliency work at the park. If design funding is successful, they will bring an engineer to look at seawall. Town Meeting authorized 100K in Johnson Park programming – seeking to use this to leverage with additional matching funding.
- b. Phillips Beach: Currently under review re: Chapter 91 (State) – do not expect construction to begin before the end of beach season.
- c. Windsor Park: Meeting approved 80K for updates to the park. Latest design has been shared; looking to add a swingset, recreation and sitting areas, walking path, new or updated fencing around the park. Neighborhood did not like the current plan, did not support pickleball or basketball courts, concerns about who would be using the park and or parking in the neighborhood. Considering a half-court, want to understand current usage.
- d. Walker Road: Currently in the final phase of testing, runs through June 18th. Mixed response thusfar from residents. Community meeting will be held in July to gather further input.

11. Task Force update – School Building Committee

- a. Awaiting MSBA vote on June 23; no major updates until then.
- b. SBC has developed further public information about the new school; signage at Stanley and FAQs/signage on website.

Action Item: Toni will review the letter from SC, OSRC to SBC, set up a further meeting.

Action Item: Sierra will follow up with Angela re: recreation field notes for Stanley School recreation and inquiry to SBC in regards to replacing open space

12. Task Force update – Tree Advisory (Verena)

- a. \$40,000 for tree planting was approved in the Town Budget for YE22!
- b. Town Hall replacement tree voting and fundraiser is complete; a scarlet oak to be planted with money from the fundraiser in June. \$600 were donated for the tree.
- c. Heritage Tree Project for Town Hall: RFQ ongoing. Meeting with Bartlett occurred.
- d. Brochure/flyer for commemorative tree program is almost final and plan is to distribute at Town Hall, funeral homes and churches.
- e. Tree inventory:
 - i. Updated with trees removed via tree hearings and storms
 - ii. Started to add trees that were newly planted since 2016 (ongoing) but most of them have no species or coordinate information, will need to use the Town owned GIS locator to map trees

- iii. Developing a process for DPW that will involve using the tree inventory for tree removal and plantings going forward

13. Hadley Re-Use Committee update

- a. Michelle, Angela, Molly are all at this committee this evening. There will be a community forum in July – date and time TBD.

14. Swampscott Conservancy update

- a. See notes above re: Harold King Forest Trail ribbon cutting on June 4th
- b. Native Plant Sale happening this Sunday June 13th at the Farmer Market

15. Committee/Department update – Conservation

- a. Rail Trail may come in front of ConComm this summer.

16. Committee/Department update – Rail Trail/Trail clean up day

- a. Completed a rail trail area cleanup this past weekend; town needs approx. 25K to assist with design and building; Friends of Swampscott Rail Trail will be working on fundraisers this summer for these additional funds.

17. Committee/Department update – Historical

- a. Historical Signage project is in process; waiting to review and approve the layouts.
- b. Notes from Angela re: Olmsted's Vision for Monument Ave – brochure suggests 'grand public boulevard dotted with civic monuments', but this language is contested.
- c. Reminder/discussion that Monument Ave was named strictly for Civil War monument on its own space; any plans for. addl. monuments/plaques/ infrastructure should be discussed.

18. Interpretive signs and Essex County grant

- a. No Update

19. Committee/Department update – Planning

- a. No Update

20. Committee/Department update – Recreation

- a. No Update

21. Other business that may properly come before the committee

22. Confirmation of next meeting date – Tuesday, July 13, 2021.