

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting MINUTES – July 12, 2022

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

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

Meeting called to order and recording started at 7:06 pm by Tania Lillak

1. Minute taker assignment: Toni Bandrowicz

2. Public comment: none

3. Rights of Way (Goal #48) – Discussed Brian Drummond’s 6/28 email (attached) regarding certain ROWs that the Swampscott History Buffs Club believe should be added to the list of ROWs in the OS&RP.

Action Item: Members of the OS&RP Committee will visit all ROWs and follow-up with town representatives on identifying the ROWs (including signage and amending the OS&RP to include the new ones identified by Brian). Toni will organize; Sierra to provide map.

It was noted that there may be grants for signs and/or History Buffs Club (which meets 2nd Monday at 10:00 at the library) is willing to donate money toward signage.

Richard will forward an 1897 map of the town to the Committee.

4. Approval of minutes from June 7, 2022: Sierra moved to approve, Angela seconded, unanimously approved.

5. Action items from last meeting’s minutes

a.. Student interns: Tania reported that Francie (Green Scholars) will be providing brochure on native plants; Toni and Brian are coordinating with Yaroslava on rodenticides killing birds of prey issue.

b. Monument plan (Goal #1): Richard reported that that there is a memorial proposed for corner of Danvers Rd. and Essex Rd. (which is part of the historic cemetery). This project raised the issue of whether there should be criteria to determine the types of memorials not just where they will be located (e.g., is it the right size for location, etc.?), and who should be evaluating the proposals under those criteria. The letter being prepared for Select Board on alternate locations for memorials (other than Memorial Ave.) still needs to have a map added to it, which Richard is working on; he may approach Pete Kane for assistance.

Action Item: Richard and Brian to update at next meeting.

c. Jackson Woods (Goal #15) – Dick Simmons (Conservancy member) had found the deed (which is needed to move forward on making the property conservation land); still need to work with Town Counsel to confirm deed research.

Action Item: Toni to check in with Marzie and KP Law on next steps.

d. Establish a winter salt management program to protect open space (with alternative to salt) (Goal #27). As a previous action item, Toni had spoken briefly with Gino who indicated that the town uses both the alternative chemical and salt. As a starting point, could identify and designate "low salt" areas that are near resources, although Gino did point out that in some cases, like Muskrat Pond, there's a very dangerous hill and curve.

Action Item: Discuss next steps at next meeting.

6. New Business

a. Hadley Reuse Committee: Need to reappoint an OS&RP Committee member to the Committee as Verena is stepping down. No decision made, but consider assigning to new member when appointed.

b. Rain Barrel event was success.

c. Noted that Katie Phalen is OS&RP Committee Select Board liaison.

7. OSRP Airtable review – Goals 41-45

Tabled to next meeting

8. New Member update

Action Item: Sierra will be reaching out to someone who is interested, and Tania will contact Steve Banks who expressed an interest.

9. Property Acquisition update (Goal #43)

Discussed and voted to send a letter to Select Board and Town Adm. thanking them for efforts to acquire Archer St. and Hawthorne properties, and reminding them that OS&RP Committee should be involved in planning for these properties.

10. Green Corridor update

Work with DPW to develop a green infrastructure policy (Goal #37). It was previously noted that the Town is working on stormwater control that may be incorporated into green corridor planning. Discussion was then had on the Green Corridor, and Toni mentioned that Pete Kane had provided a list of steps to take to designate the corridor

Action Item: Discuss at next meeting implementing Pete's suggested steps

11. Community Development update: No update.

12. Swampscott Conservancy update: The Conservancy reported that it had a table showcasing its Town Hall pollinator garden both at the Historical Society's June town event, and the Reach Art's July event. Upcoming events include Climate Change presentations. The Conservancy also worked with the Girl Scouts in building a bird blind at Harold King Forest, and a cleanup of Muskrat Pond.

13. School Building/Sustainability Committee update: Sierra reported that the Committee hasn't met in a few months, but anticipate that subcommittee on solar and mechanical equipment will be meeting soon. The design team met to discuss trees and is following up with Gino (Tree Warden). The town has accepted a bid for demolition activities which should be starting. On July 18 there will be a public meeting on traffic issues. Sierra is working on a foot traffic plan that encourages biking and walking under "Safe Routes to School" program (which fits into the earlier discussion on ROWs).

14. Tree Committee: Verena reported that DPW planted 50 trees this spring, but was overextended doing so; plan is to plant 20-30 next time. Trees will be planted in the new open space area on Walker and Banks created by the cross walk bump outs. Town has received grants from DCR for heritage tree care at town hall and will be contracting with Sequoia. The Committee is working on tree planting priorities that will focus on (1) high usage areas (school, bus stops, etc.) and (2) tree requests by residents.

15. Conservation Commission Update: The rail trail proposal will likely be coming back before the Conservation Commission in August or Sept.

16. Committee/Department update – Historical: Richard reported that Historical is working on White Court easement signs.

17. Committee/Department update – Planning: Angela report that Planning major focus is on Sec. 3A multifamily housing (Vinnin Sq.). There will be a land use summit in the fall.

18. Committee/Department update – Recreation: No update.

19. "Parking Lot" Items

- a. Light pollution at Town Hall that is potentially causing problem for migrating birds (Goal #19)
- b. Zoning regulations to address negative impacts of development (Goals #18 and #23)
- c. How do we develop a partnership to collaborate and coordinate with different committees? (Goal #18)
- d. Identify and certify potential vernal pools (Conservancy is working on) (Goal #29)
- e. Reduce sprinkler use – Tania noted that DPW using less water in 2022; check in with Gino each summer (Goal #40)
- f. Implement recommendations to improve flora and fauna from Harold King Forest Stewardship Management Plan such as cutting of trees (Goal #35)

g. Develop local wetlands protection by-law that compliments the state Wetlands Protection Act (long term project of Con Com) (Goal #33)

h. Howland Park: As Gino is busy with tree plantings and other work in summer, Tania will check in with him in the Fall (Goal #13)

Confirmation of next meeting date: August 9, 2022 by Zoom (pending whether Commonwealth extends remote meeting past July 15).

Meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Brian Drummond's 6/28 email:

Marzie:

It was great talking to you Monday 6/27/22. The Swampscott History Buffs Club (SHBC), founded by Lou Gallo, has been discussing Town right-of-ways and other topics. We meet the second Monday of every month at the Swampscott library at 10 o/c. We are aware of additional Town right-of-ways that could be added to page 73 of the Open Space & Recreation Plan Update 2021 to 2028, dated June 2021. See additional right-of-ways below:

1. Jessie St. to Roy St
2. Melvin Ave to Roy St
3. End of Claremont Terrace to Humphrey St (shown on 1897 Town Street map)
4. Windsor Ave to Robinson Rd to Danvers Rd (currently posted no trespassing, but some members of the SHBC remember using it as kids). Someone in the neighborhood recently stated that the Town abandoned the road/right-of-way 10-15 years ago and it is no longer public.
5. Elmwood Road to Hadley school and Redington St. Our understanding is that this pathway was taken by the Town from the Chick property for a rear exit from Hadley school. It is shown on the assessor's map as Hadley school property. The public way may want to be kept separate from the Hadley property if Hadley is sold.
6. Pinehill/Sargent Rd to Walnut Rd/Sargent Rd is used as a public right-of-way. It is the paper road portion of Sargent Rd that was never developed.

Two other thoughts:

Some signage would be helpful at the public right-of-ways so everyone knows the locations. Some public right-of-ways appear to be private property. Currently there is no signage. Also, Marblehead does a "perambulation" of all Marblehead right-of-ways every year or two to assure that there has been no encroachment on the right-of-ways and that all right-of-ways are accessible. Swampscott should consider a similar "perambulation" process.

The Swampscott History Buffs Club would be happy to review and comment on any current or future Town historical documents.

Regards,
Brian D. (Member SHBC)