

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting MINUTES – June 12 2022

Members Present: Tania Lillak (Chair), Toni Bandrowicz, Richard Smith (Historical Commission), Verena Karsten, Steve Banks, Brian Drummond (guest)

Not Present: Danielle Strauss (Recreation), Sierra Muñoz, Marzie Galazka, and Angela Ippolito

Meeting called to order and recording started at 7:07 pm by Tania Lillak

1. Minute taker assignment: Brian Longin

2. Public comment: None

3. Introductions: Tania, introduced Brian Drummond (History Buffs) who has been helping OSPRC with some of our ROW activities and Steve Banks, newest committee member. *Toni motioned to make Steve a member of the OSRPC. Richard seconded. Passed unanimously.*

4. Rights of Way (Goal #48) – Toni: Group of representatives from the committee went and visited the ROWs. Sent messages to the group. Marzie said she would like us to discuss signage and what they should say. She had some suggestions. Next step is to prioritize which ROWs need work the most. At some point perhaps add an addendum to the OSPRC plan. Need to get KP Law involved.

Brian: The ROW between Hawthorne and the church could not be found. Should be explored more. Did not do Robinson road because of the no trespassing sign. Claremont terrace was unreachable. Around 40 steps, some properties refer to the steps as a boundary. Pulled the drawings for the Shipwatch condo complex presented to the town. At the end of Claremont Terrace there is emergency access point. Violating some sort of zoning by blocking emergency access points. Need to make Nirvana drive with access to the ocean a public street. Gino and Town should not be servicing private road.

Tania: It could be argued that Claremont terrace was supposed to extend to king beach terrace.

Brian: The updated maps do not have that anymore. OSPRC should take a look at paper roads in addition to ROWs.

Steve: There may be another ROW or paper road on Galloupes point.

Action Item: Toni to organize a draft letter to KP Law to explore issues further.

5. Approval of minutes from July 12, 2022: Brian moved to approve, Toni seconded, unanimously approved.

6. Action items from last meeting's minutes

a. Student interns: Tania reported that Franci (Green Scholars) provided brochure on native plants and will get to group. Toni and Brian are coordinating with Yaroslava on

rodenticides killing birds of prey issue. Verena inquired about getting students involved for tree app. Toni to potentially reach out to Brandi Wilbur or Brennan Natoli.

Action item: Toni will reach out to Yaroslava and send message to Deb Newman.

b. Monument plan (Goal #1): Richard trying to get a base map for potential monument locations. Contacted Pete Kane for guidance, but he sent Richard back to Marzie. Corner of Danvers road is still pending. Historic commission still looking to send people out.

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

c. Jackson Woods (Goal #15) –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. Salt preservation work. Toni doesn't have bandwidth to deal with this issue. Try to prevent town from using salt in certain areas. Verena brought this up at Tree Committee but nobody stepped up. Sense from Gino was that he wasn't too interested in and town can be liable if they don't act to get rid of ice in certain areas. This items will be put in the "Parking Lot" for now.

e. Archer and Hawthorne properties. Tania said Select Board responded to our letter and said OSPRC will be involved in planning. Need to ensure town is moving forward with designs of parks for the Hawthorne property. Committee needs to be prepared to inform the board with information and public comment.

7. New Business

a. Verena inquired to how to implement water restrictions. Toni: Hamilton and Wenham always have bans because of the Ipswich river. Tania: Water in Swampscott is from reservoir and the supply is plentiful recently.

b. Hadley Reuse committee: Steve volunteered to be OSPRC member on the Hadley committee. Will have to be appointed.

Action item: Tania to contact Dianne at TH.

8. OSRP Airtable review – Goals 41-45

41. Take Climate Change action. Need update from Angela. Toni: Haven't talked about making other changes will have to think about what other work can be done.

Action item: Toni and Angela to discuss and update.

42. Rail trail. Updates during community development part of meeting.

43. Areas for acquisition. Committee has been involved but could work more on developing a policy.

44. Temple improved access Palmer. Toni: Molly's concern was that Groom was going to develop a boardwalk on his property and there was no reason to stop him. Add Palmer road off Atlantic ave and stops at edge of pond to ROWs list. But ROW may go across pond to ROW. Richard provided maps.

Action item: Toni will try to look at property.

45. Aggregate. Until town and Aggregate settle current litigation it might be difficult to approach them for land.

9. Green Corridor update (Goal #43)

Toni: Wants to follow Pete Kane's plan. Develop a small sign that can be replicated on route. We did all survey the route at different times in the past. Think east coast greenway. Do we want to figure out which areas need to be fixed up along the corridor?

Action Item: Toni and Brian to work on signage research and development.

10. Community Development update: A couple other updates submitted by Marzie:

1. Grand Opening of Windsor Park is scheduled for this Thursday. Please see attached flyer and please join us if you can.
2. Basketball at Clark/Abbott Park is being resurfaced. Gino's staff is doing the demolition and Atlantic Paving is scheduled to pave it on August 17 and 18. Line coating will be done in September.
3. In July I submitted a grant application to rehabilitate the swing section of Abbott Park. The request is for \$100,000 in grant funding to update the swings, install new play areas for smaller children, install an interactive music instruments section, and safety surfacing for the entire area.
4. As a follow up to our tour of public access site visit, I spoke with one of the neighbors that lives on Nichols Street regarding the gate or blocked access on Windsor. He stated that the neighbors put the gate up to prevent dumping and littering. I will follow up with Gino to place better signage and allow pedestrian access.
5. We are working on way finding signage for White Court. Please see attached road/sidewalk marker that we would like to install. We are open to suggestions and recommendations, as right now the owners of White Court have no trespassing signs that we would like to see replaced with wayfinding signs.
6. We installed a bike repair station at the middle school, near tennis courts. Unfortunately, the station was vandalized and we are working to replace it.
7. Friends of the Swampscott Rail Trail worked with a local carpenter and installed a kiosk on the Rail Trail. One of the trail neighbors was not happy about it and requested that it be relocated.
8. We received another grant for the rail trail that will bring the design to 100%.

11. Swampscott Conservancy update: Toni: some presentations coming up about climate change and pollution. Going to be cleanup at Jackson woods of invasive plants on Saturday 8:30-noon. Running hikes in September.

12. School Building/Sustainability Committee update: Sierra submitted a few updates:

- No meeting of Sustainability Subcommittee this past month.
- Demo contractor is currently doing abatement of hazardous building materials. Will be setting up a perimeter fence around the site but no fence yet (that I could see yesterday).
- DEP has approved demolition plans and demo should be complete by early fall.
- Initial info on trees re: project site has been submitted to the Swampscott Tree Warden and a public hearing will be held - no date for this yet but it should be posted on SBC/Town sites and I will inform OSRPC.

Verena reported that many trees will be removed for the site development and is hopeful to negotiate the trees that are removed.

13. Tree Committee: Verena: want to support DPW in getting more operating budget for maintaining trees. Money is also an issue. We have some comparative stats to share. DCR grants. One for heritage tree care for trees around town hall. Money also to hire arborists to help with those trees- irrigation and mulching. The other grant is Swampscott arboretum. Pushed into spring because of the drought. Trees next to post office and Linscott park have fungal disease. Trying to get consultation from arborist. Wrote letter about vehicular traffic on town hall property. Can hinder root development. Town keeps having big events such as car show. Not much response from town. Next step is to have meeting with Danielle Strauss.

14. Conservation Commission Update: No updates of interest. Waiting on town for rail trail.

15. Committee/Department update – Historical: Not much new. Working on signage for white court and lilac garden. Sent screen grabs of palmer pond out to the group.

16. Committee/Department update – Planning: No update.

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

18. Other 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)
- i. Salt preservation on roads work.
- j. Policies for town acquiring land.
- k. No. 44 improved access to temple land and pond.

19. Confirmation of next meeting date: September 13, 2022 by Zoom

Meeting was adjourned at 8:41 pm.