

Open Space and Recreation Committee Meeting MINUTES- Sept 14, 2021

Members present: Tania Lillak (chair), Toni Bandrowicz (Vice Chair), Richard Smith, Sierra Munoz, Angela Ippolito, Molly O'Connell (Senior planner) Michelle Barden, and Brian Longin (Welcome Brian!)

Location: Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Tania Lillak

1-Minute taker: Angela Ippolito

2-Public comment: Gayle Stohl, requesting update on Johnson Park: design on hold subject to chapter 91 grant app to seek funding, Molly can provide further updates, still waiting. Funding would cover design. We'll have a better idea of funding source for updates and seawall. No comment from DEP without final design

3-Approval of minutes August 10 meeting: approved unanimously.

4-Action items from previous meeting:

#11 Playground maintenance Gino is planning to use quarterly maintenance checklist.

Action item: Molly to confirm next meeting.

#29 Install unified signage- Swampscott can use Beverly signage designs as a basis. Molly getting pricing for pole banners install instead of planters; Allie working on pricing and manufacturing

#19/64 Toni following up, asking for access at head of pond where there is town land, fixing it up. Does it have to be ADA? what is purpose of access? a view? if you have to go down to water 4-5 feet then you'd have to do a ramp. Gino said he could put in stone steps such as at Harold King, but what determines that treatment? Toni could ask town counsel about ADA requirement. Richard looked at GIS noticed that there is a level area at road elevation, perhaps a place for an overlook. Toni will follow up. Also Michelle mentioned that there is a eutrophication issue every summer. Should we be doing study?

Action item: Toni will follow up with Michele.

#20/65. King's beach extension of NR designation from Lynn line to Red Rock: Angela has located missing files. Can use to put together application. Angela to provide NR designation information to committee. Coordinate with Historical Commission to complete listing.

Action item: Angela to work with Historical Commission on application.

5-New business: none

New member search: Welcome Brian Longin, our potential new member. Marblehead native, experience in government work, moved back to this area after extended period living away. Interest in learning about Swampscott and how local government works.

6- Air table review: 21-25:

#21/29 Identify and certify potential vernal pools:

Toni, Erica on Conservancy working on certifying and have submitted paperwork for state to approve certification on church property.

Action item: Sierra will ask Erica Oberlin about status

#22/17 Identify and protect designated Historical Sites

Action item: re: Train Depot. Angela will email Peter on status of this building and its surrounds as it is on the list of objectives for the OSRP.

Action item: re: Fish House...what is preservation plan as it relates to HWAC plan? Molly needs to get up to speed on what's happening and will circle back

Action Item: re: Garage at TH - collapse Max, Rich Baldacci overseeing this issue; reach out to see what can be salvaged. Found Lilac Garden Plaques, will remake some; Hist Comm has Location/list in archives. Angela will meet at TH with Rich to explore the rubble.

#23/#43 Identify land for acquisition by Town

letter to SB // aggregate and Elm Place, 41 Spinale

Action item: Tania to send letter.

#24/#73 Identify Green Corridor network system

Research what other communities have done in identifying green corridor short term was interpretive signage, planters marking of pathway (I can look at Essex Heritage partners and ask) also priority to add to town's tree canopy. Signage: interpretive... what are takeaways

Action item: Angela to contact ENHC

#25 Improve parking at Harold King:

complete, did some knotweed work

7-Public Way and Interpretive way signs: A plan is in place to use Beverly's signage as a model. Molly is contacting sign maker. Molly will use old maps to create a file to put pins in it with intent to blend this item with green corridor.
(Allie sent the green corridor network map to all OSRP members to edit) Angela sent Municipal Design Committee signage document as well as other sign related materials.

8- School: article 2 passed Town Meeting. SBC in outreach mode between now and Oct 19 Town-wide vote. Due date for MSBA to accept grant is later in Oct. Question about open space in site plan is still not answered. MSBA submittal (pg 500) showed open space including 33000 sf grass playfield 120x180 the only outdoor playground is 12,000. Passive spaces need to be identified and designed-what happens there? Look to other communities for best practices in small limited outdoor space utilization and solutions. Answers from SBC to Toni's queries were that they will know if/when vote passes and design begins.

9- Community Development

Phillips Beach: final plan being permitted, not sure about Sandy Beach

Windsor Park: Marzie met tonight with neighbors keeps basketball court, cool playstructure made of pourplay, soft sloping entrances etc getting another grant

Walker Rd: traffic count study back how to move forward w road design how to move forward with intersection improvements go out to bid over winter for construction next spring

Johnson Park address above in Public Comment

Conservation restriction- Jackson Woods: Molly will be working with Essex Greenbelt to set up CR. Revisit in December.

From Marzie:

- Johnson Park – design is currently on hold. Most of the improvements at Johnson Park are subject to Chapter 91 permitting. I strongly believe that we should address storm surge and flooding issues before we make any investments to the park. We submitted a grant application seeking grant funding for the design of sea wall- Molly can provide further updates, and are still waiting for notification. I met with state staff regarding PARC funding for the sea wall and the park, but PARC funds are not eligible for resiliency only projects, and As you know, we have \$100,000 from town meeting for park improvements, but that is not enough to make sea wall improvements.
- Phillips Beach - Chapter 91 permit was issued. Bid has been advertised. Bids opening is scheduled for Wednesday, September 29, 2021. Construction to start in the fall and complete in the spring - in time for beach season.
- Windsor Park -tonight I am meeting with the Neighbors regarding an updated design. The current cost estimate exceeds our budget. At this time, town cannot allocate additional funding. I will be seeking support/fundraising from the neighborhood or will redesign the site to match our funding.
- Rail Trail – the Friends of the Rail Trail donated \$150,000 in funding to support the MassDOT design requirement for eligibility for federal construction funding. The contract was awarded. Town also received \$200,000 in funding to construct the Humphrey to Middle School segment of the trail. This segment is currently on hold due to need for environmental permitting. The design is ongoing. We will use grant funding to install two bicycle repair stations. Currently we are looking at placing one behind the Middle School and one on Humphrey Street near the entrance of the rail trail. The repair station has a place to hold a bike, it has a pump and repair tools. The Friends of the Rail Trail are planning a ribbon cutting for the completed section of the trail for this month. I will email you once a date has been finalized. They continue to sell bicycle bells with the Friends logo at the Farmer's Market and hold a bike sale/swap later in the month.

10- Tree Task Force – update from Verena:

Town Hall Park: 2 LOIs were submitted to DCR for challenge grant applications. The grant applications are for **heritage tree care** and for **strategic tree planting** to replant the Veteran's arboretum and are due Nov 1st. We are currently working on the applications and will review the details and proposed planting plan with you at the October OSRPC mtg.

Special note for Angela, Richard and other history buffs: Gino found ca. 12 of the lost plaques from the arboretum in the basement of the carriage house. What a find after the floor accident and we will reinstall them if possible!

Commemorative tree planting program. We finalized a brochure that describes the program and we hope to have this highlighted in the Town newsletter and on the Forestry website very soon.

Street Tree Planting: After the \$40k appropriation for shade tree planting, we drafted the letter that will go out to 70 residents on the waiting list. Plan is to send out the letter this week and plant ca 20 street trees this Fall, 20 next Spring, etc

Tree Inventory: huge efforts have been going on to update the inventory of 3000 street trees that was established in 2016. We worked with different sources of information from DPW to mark trees as removed or added newly planted trees. A workflow within DPW has been created so that the inventory is kept up to date going forward.

Lost Trees (sad news): 12 dead trees have been removed at the Middle school and we think that they were slowly killed by 1-2 feet of fill that was brought in 5 years ago from the Turf field excavation. We discussed it with DPW and explained what we think happened and hopefully this will not happen again.

11- Hadley Reuse Committee: report is online RFI to go out if school passes

12- Swampscott Conservancy: Speakers coming up extreme weather and tree equity (inner city communities)

13- Conservation Commission: to meet regarding Rail Trail possibly in September

14- Rail Trail: working on funding for rail trail, federal funding eligibility. friends donated \$150K town got \$200K for bike stations, self serve behind middle school, one behind Humphrey towards entrance. Michelle to take a closer look to see if positioning is good. FORT planning ribbon cutting this month. Still selling bike bells at farmers mkt and another bike sale

15- Historical Commission: First interpretive signs have been approved for fabrication. These can be the template for signage key open space properties. Need to determine priority locations. HC will be setting up an exhibit in the old selectmen's meeting room at town hall. Placement of signs will be determined in same fashion as interpretative signs, through mapping process (Molly, Allie will make maps available). 4 complete, sign off from historic district. Elm place to hist comm because 2 houses would be demolished what to do, site.

16- Planning: Coordination of town boards on priorities for projects. Budget collective issues with FinComm. No news with Elm Place but there should be a submission sometime late fall maybe November. New zoning amendments for ADU, signage planned for spring TM.

17- Recreation Department update: None tonight

18- Other business: There is some interest in exploring Town exercising its first refusal rights for the purchase of Blytheswood. How could the property be managed? Could town buy it and have an outside manager run it? Trail on easement has been started. Is this the time to move on purchase? Probably will be put up for sale in the next five years. (No update on this)

19- Confirmation of next meeting date: Oct 12, 2021.