

## Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – December 8, 2020

**Members Present:** Tania Lillak (Chair), Tonia Bandrowicz (Vice Chair), Verena Karsten, Richard Smith, Danielle Strauss (Recreation Director), Marzie Galazka (Dir Community & Economic Development)

**Not present:** Molly O’Connell (Senior Planner), Angela Ippolito (Planning Board Rep), , Sierra Muñoz

**Visiting:** Michele Barden (prospective member)

**Public:** Nobody from the public joined

Meeting called to order at 7:07 by Tania Lillak.

1. **Minute taker:** Verena Karsten
2. **Approval of November 24, 2020 Minutes:** Committee unanimously voted to adopt the Nov 24, 2020 minutes. Toni moved to accept, Verena seconded.
3. **New business** – none
4. **Swampscott Television Visioning Committee:** Tania is currently listed as the OSP rep.; Michele may take this on once she is approved by the Select Board.
5. **Hadley School Reuse Advisory Committee:** Committee will have chair and co-chair, Mass Development to assist committee; meeting frequency is once a month. 17 members (4 Select board, 4 Appointed by Town moderator, ...)

**Motion: I MOVE that the Open Space & Recreation Committee appoint Verena Karsten to serve on the Hadley School Re-Use Advisory Committee.** Motion by Tania, seconded by ??, all were in favor.

6. **2020 OSRP:** Plan has to be approved by Select Board. Marzie will help Tania. GIS mapping is unclear on the ownership of Palmer Pond and whether it is conservation land. Essex registry of deeds suggest that Palmer Pond piece (Parcel 2) is part of Tom Grooms property. Toni suggested to ask the property owners would agree to a Conservation restriction.

Map 12 in the OSRPC was annotated with them properties near Harold King Forest that would be considered for purchase by Town.

**ACTION ITEM: Marzie will look into Tom Grooms survey to see if he owns it. Marzie to check all the abutting properties to see if Palmer Pond is privately owned.**

7. **Green Corridors update:** No update. Toni will call Gino.
8. **Johnson Park Design:** Marzie will meet with architects tomorrow at 10 AM, offers to have someone from OSRPC to join. Richard agreed to attend. The committee reviewed features in design option #2 which was the favored design in the survey. In general the group thought that there are too many design elements that make the small space appear very busy and could be counterproductive to open and flexible usage. Below is a summary of the committee's discussion:
  - **Light features** – downward lights and low light is better to avoid light pollution, bollard lighting preferred, consider 4 on the cross-paths and 4 by t path near the seawall
  - **Bike rack** -needed, location by the road does not feel safe for leaving bikes, preferred is by west end stairs
  - **Guardrail** – Marzie to find out if it is a required safety feature. If not required, the committee is not in favor as it obstructs the view.
  - **Educational Signage** – nice to have, but adds to clutter. Information about history of space could be combined with Tide Charts/Public announcements.
  - **Paving** – permeable pavers strongly preferred
  - **Paths** - make the paths so that the lawn is less cut into smaller pieces. Richard proposed a new path design that the committee supports.
  - **Exhedra** – the only remaining historic remnant of the summer hotel. Committee endorses to restore and keep.
  - **Tables and chairs** - committee does not support, maintenance and concerns during storms
  - **Trash and Recycling** – Town currently has carry-in and carry-out, if allowed again should be placed near east end stairs
  - **Benches** - along seawall only, no benches along the paths to keep the open concept for the lawn. Need a bench near the North stairs for the lifeguards.
  - **Lifeguard chair** - include in design on east end by stairs
  - **Splashpad** – low rating, maintenance issue. Area prone to flooding.
  - **Footwash** – great to have, maintenance issue
  - **Drinking fountain** - nice to have, maintenance issue
  - **Land irrigation** - supported by Open Space with control sensor to limit water usage, will also help with landscaping and tree survival, property sits on a ledge with now water table
  - **Trees** – shade trees are strongly supported. Agree with 4-5 trees as proposed. Need to select the right trees for the location with loose canopy and salt tolerance.
  - **Temporary Event Stage** - electricity along the fence line or add to bollards for events; no need for reinforced lawn from an event perspective. Any stage will be only temporary/seasonal.

- **Terracing of lawn towards the fence-** committee likes this type of landscaping without any permanent structures
  - **Landscaping with grasses and seaside planting** – strongly supported, consider stormwater berms toward the street to prevent water running into the street. Overall, the park may need general grading to support storm water drainage, consider a main drain
9. **Organic Lawn Management Update:** The Town is fully committed to organic lawn maintenance and the Town Administrator is fully on board. Gino is exploring options to implement in the Spring. We have been told that the Athletic Field Advisory Committee’s responsibilities may include developing policies for lawn maintenance. They will work with the OSRPC on organic lawn care.

**Next Meeting:** January 12, 2021

Adjournment: Motion by Verena, second by Richard. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm