

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – October 27, 2020

Members Present: Tania Lillak (Chair), Richard Smith, Sierra Muñoz, Tonia Bandrowicz (Vice Chair), Verena Karsten, Angela Ippolito (Planning Board Rep), Sarah Koch, Marzie Galazka (Dir Community & Economic Development)

Not present: Molly O’Connell (Senior Planner), Danielle Strauss (Recreation Director)

Meeting called to order at 7:08 by Tania Lillak.

Minute taker: Angela

This regularly scheduled meeting is also a duly noticed public hearing for review and comment on the draft Open Space & Recreation Plan Update. There were no public participants in the audience.

1. Approval of September 15, 2020 Minutes: Committee unanimously voted to adopt the Sept 15, 2020 minutes. With correction to “response” by Richard, who made motion, Verena seconded.

Molly doing well! Had a baby boy!

2. **2020 OSRPC Plan** (Tania, Marzie): Tania has received several applications of interest for OS Committee membership. Tania will sift through. OSRC (Tania) will be presenting plan updates in front of Select Board on Nov 4, then Marzie can forward to staff at State for approval. The next round of grant funding is not until Springtime, so timing should work. As mentioned above, there is no public participation/feedback at tonight’s hearing.
3. **Green Corridor** – Carson Terrace (Toni). Toni sent email to Gino, need to sit down with him and get a sense of what he thinks realistically can be done
ACTION ITEM: Toni to meet with Gino
4. **Community Development update** (Marzie) Johnson Park: as part of this year’s town budget we got funding for the redesign of Johnson Park. CBA Architect held visioning session on beach this summer, able to determine type of scheme. Also just completed online survey asking residents for input. As of today we have 3 different proposals, including varying amounts of open space: some have a water feature, there are areas designated for passive use, an area that could be used as an amphitheater, areas for food trucks. The results were shared with residents, many of whom are not supportive of enhanced developments, requesting that town remove trees, especially the large one that sits next to the beach marker. Some members remarked that it is “sad” that residents don’t want trees. Residents claim they have provided the same feedback for years. Not opposed to appropriate plantings, like grasses or shrubs, but not tall trees. There were about 158 responses to the survey. Marzie will share concept developments hope that SB allocate matching funding 158 responses. Hoping this committee can help

draft final proposals. Town will have to come before ConComm for any changes as well, will open it up to abutters. Angela said that she is very concerned that the plans do not address the serious coastal resiliency features that were the focus of earlier redesign efforts. Plans must be designed with more focus on resiliency, berms, seawall repair.

ACTION ITEM: Marzie to follow up with OSRP Comm for more detailed comments

Windsor park design: Town budgeted \$40,000 to replace playground equipment, and applied for additional 80K in grant funding, Town retained Nezra engineering to survey area. Additional ideas from committee = Green corridor will go right by also, think about how to make the part leading up to it, Wish we weren't in tussle with aggregate so we could ask for land behind it, seems like a smaller park good for a small child playground area. Question about what to do with basketball Ct.

ACTION ITEM: CommDev will do surveys & conduct a public process for more feedback.

5. **School Building Committee:** SBC made choice to move ahead with a 900-student K-4 at the Stanley Site. Building plans at this point are to have the length of it back up to the Ewing Woods. Concerns about open space, although they designed building at 3 stories to keep what remains of the field more open. Issues with UU space, woods, wetlands. Hadley becomes available use as flex space for middle school while work is being done. Keep Hadley for community space?

ACTION ITEM: Sierra is on School Sustainability subcommittee and plans to follow the process so she will report to committee

6. **Tree Advisory Task Force (Verena):** Tree bylaw is in the warrant – Toni will present at TM on Nov 16. Next TATF meeting is next week. Fisherman's beach planting of trees will continue, a couple more serviceberries will be added, will finish next year, extending all the way to FH. Also fixing sidewalks along that FB route. Paradise road – investigating whether we can replant by Clarke school. Gas line is under the sidewalk so we can replant, there is an application process with MAAssDOT. Kelly is investigating, but plan is to get trees planted.

Missed deadline for DCR heritage trees grant to replant trees at TH.

Made contact with Veterans agent Mike Sweeney, also memorial tree program people can donate money and have trees planted.

ACTION ITEM: identify locations where those trees can be planted, Metropolitan park? First option to the right of the library

Toni mentioned checking out iTree app. Verena said that we need to update tree inventory now outdated. It's been 4 years since it was done, currently on an inaccessible platform. Might be something for an intern college, high school

ACTION ITEM: Marzie said we might be able to do this as part of Tree USA program, will check it out. Marzie also mentioned that we are getting a new GIS handheld scanner to id and plot trees on our GIS system.

ACTION ITEMS: Angela to email Louis about tree info at TH, also contact Maitland twins. Angela will send Olmsted maps to Verena so she can get more info to try to replace some of the trees that are missing

7. **Organic Lawn Management Update:** Sarah got message from Neil Duffy to get info on pricing on OG lawn care. Sarah sent him to place in Rowley. Neil came across article about Cambridge getting Stoneyfield farm grant, we should apply again. Chip Osborne had offered to come out and look at individual fields for advice. Also need new liaison person since Sarah is leaving. Sierra will do this on interim basis until someone new can come on board. Sarah will share stuff and let Polly know.

ACTION ITEM: Sarah will send link to Marzie including the app they sent for this grant last year.

8. **Conservancy:** (Toni & Sierra) Discussed two presentations, on bats and cats, very well received. Will be having climate change presentation in Winter by the same person that wrote "Walden Warming". Everyone will get email blasts -- Colleen wiz at graphics same with FB page
9. **Conservation Comm**—Toni went to recent conference focusing on Conservation, many interesting suggestions for putting together information on all the properties. Must make sure we have DEEDS. Since Max is gone should we be following up on encroachment issues at Ewing? Marzie will go for walk there with Toni. Harold King should be surveyed because it is the best way of seeing what kind of encroachment is happening. Very expensive however, It cost in the thousands for Ewing. Toni said there were other workshops on green infrastructure, she'll check it out and share the powerpoint.

ACTION ITEM: Gino had Ewing surveyed, and Toni will ask him for the survey results and share with Angela

- **Rail Trail:** Town received funding for second segment Beach Bluff to Bradlee, \$150,000. Aqualine construction company had best bid, all neighbors will hopefully be signing waivers so they can begin, 4 more to go. Goal is to start construction in Nov to be spent by Dec. Planning to do a bike ride thru Swampscott through Mhead etc. Groundbreaking and ribbon cutting may have to be on hold due to covid.

From The Friends of Swampscott Rail Trail: The rail trail is in the final stages of securing federal and state grants to fund 100% of the remainder of the trail. To secure these grants, further design/engineering is needed to meet more rigid state and federal design requirements. The Friends of Swampscott Rail Trail secured a \$125,000 matching donation. If matched, it will fully fund the final additional design required by the state and federal agencies, including civil engineering, bridge design, geo-tech, and environmental.

10. **Historical:** (Richard): Signage is in the process, Marzie talking to vendor, HC finalizing wording and images, getting proposed plan together for what to do with old police station. Hope to be chasing grants on exterior renovations. HC responded to RFP for Police Station.

Town will review, no selection committee yet. HC & Library collaborating on proposal for work on joint town archives.

11. **Planning:** (Angela) zoning proposals at Town Meeting, Offsite Parking article will be indefinitely postponed; technical corrections to zoning bylaw will be presented. Elm Place property (Bruce Paradise owned) working with Winn Group on development plan for affordable housing units, working with AHT and SHA, plan will include connection from Stetson Ave over or under rail trail.

12. **Recreation Committee/Department update:** (Angela for Danielle) Danielle has a new program running called Outdoor Adventures. We are taking groups of kids to a different spot each week for 4 weeks starting this week. Today they went to the Forest River Trail. Next week to Harold King Forest. Then Tide pooling on week 3 and tbd the last week

Goodbye and Much Gratitude to Sarah Koch for all your contributions to the Open Space Committee and the Town. We will miss you!!

Next Meeting: Nov 10, 2020

Adjournment: Motion by Sierra second by Richard. adjourned at 8:55pm