



# TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT

## OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

ELIHU THOMSON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
22 MONUMENT AVENUE, SWAMPSCOTT, MA 01907

### MEMBERS

TANIA LILLAK, CHAIR  
TONI BANDROWICZ, VICE CHAIR  
JIM OLIVETTI, CLERK  
SARA HEPBURN  
ANGELA IPPOLITO  
SARAH KOCH  
RICHARD SMITH

January 12, 2018

Mr. Gino A. Cresta, Jr.  
Director of Public Works  
Town of Swampscott

RE: Harold King Forest improvements

Dear Gino:

One of the primary focuses of the **Open Space & Recreation Plan 2013-2020** is to improve public access to Swampscott's open spaces, and, more specifically, to improve the trail system in the Harold King Forest. As you know, Duncan Page has given this effort a great boost this Fall by reblazing the loop trail and constructing an information kiosk near the Forest entrance as his Eagle Scout project.

There are two maintenance issues in the Forest that the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee wants to point out to you via this letter that we hope the Department of Public Works will address:

- Access to the trail from Nichols St. parking lot. The entrance to the trail currently is just a steep dirt slope that makes initial access to the trail difficult. The Committee suggests that a series of steps constructed from large slab rocks and/or "railroad ties" be dug into the slope to allow users to descend to the trail in a controlled fashion. These steps would also serve to divert the flow of water from the parking lot away from the slope reducing further erosion at the entrance.
- Accumulated debris within the Forest. There is an informal dump developing within the Forest, near the abandoned 1950s era car. While the Committee feels the car itself could be considered an attraction or historical landmark and left in place, there are discarded appliances and other debris nearby that should be removed. It is possible that this material is coming into the Forest from Wyman Place in Salem, or another nearby street on the Salem side of the park. It is hoped that by clearing out this trash, perpetrators will get the message that the town cares about the Forest.

Ideally, these two issues would be addressed by DPW before the planned celebration of the reconditioned trail in late Spring, when we hope to attract public interest in the town forest and promote a Friends of Swampscott Conservation Lands volunteer group.

Please let the OS&RPC know how we can be of assistance to you in completing this important project. Members of the Committee would be happy to walk the trail at Harold King Forest with you at your convenience to review these recommendations onsite.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tania Lillak', is positioned to the left of a vertical dashed line.

Tania Lillak  
Chairperson, Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee