

## Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting MINUTES – October 10, 2023 at Town Hall

**Members Present:** Tania Lillak (Chair), Toni Bandrowicz (Vice Chair), Sierra Muñoz, and Steve Banks.

**Members Absent** Brian Longin and Lauryn Hart

**Town Representatives Present:** None

**Town Representatives Absent:** Katie Phelan (Select Board), Danielle Strauss (Recreation Director), Marzie Galazka (Community & Econ. Develop)

**Other Participants:** Shauna Vera, candidate for committee

**Meeting called to order and recording started at 7:04 pm**

1. **Minute taker assignment** Steve Banks

2. **Public Comment** None

3. **Approval of minutes** Sierra moved to approve minutes from September 12, 2023, which was seconded by Toni, and unanimously approved.

4. **Updates on Action Items from last meeting's minutes**

**Goal 65** (*"Extend National Register status from the Lynn Line to Redington Street."*)

**Action Item:** Marzie still trying to schedule the meeting with the DCR Commissioner.

**Goal 53** (*"Find and install additional areas for kayak and small boat storage"*)

Mr. Banks stated two RDAs have been submitted to ConCom who will vote on Oct 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Goal 69** (*"Develop and publish information on human interaction with wildlife"*) and

**Goal 76** (*Investigate and protect wildlife corridors; add to Green Corridor map as needed.*)

**Action Item:** Sierra and Toni will ask at the next SC meeting if Goals 69 and 76 regarding wildlife are being addressed. Toni will also send a separate email to Colleen Hitchcock and Suzanne Hale.

**Goal 15** (*Acquire conservation restriction to protect open space land in perpetuity" Jackson Woods*)

**Action Item:** Marzie still trying to get a cost estimate for plan of land for Jackson Woods.

**Goal 71** (*Work with ENHC to create signage along Byway indicating points of interest*)

Toni shared the sign design for the White Court easement with the OSRPC. The plan is to use that design for other signs. Committee liked the signs.

**Action Item:** Marzie and Toni to work on signage for Goal 71 Scenic Byway. Toni will ask Marzie for two additional signs:

- 1) Add another directional sign at White Court.
- 2) Use the same signage for Phillips Beach easement (between 80 & 86 Phillips Beach Ave).

**Goal 9** (*Ensure provision of playground/green space of the same square footage or more on site if property is re-used*)

Toni noted that Linscott Park is under ConCom management, so will have to come before the ConCom if there is a plan to make changes to the park, such as to the playground equipment. ConCom's bulletin and rules for Linscott Park:

[rules for linscott park.pdf \(swampscottma.gov\)](http://swampscottma.gov/rules_for_linscott_park.pdf) As relevant to the question of moving playground equipment, the bulletin notes that certain activities that fall between completely passive and active recreation should be allowed as long as they do not require significant construction or alteration of the land, and the land is maintained and protected.

**Action Item:** Ms. Phelan is seeking information from the Town Administrator and Town Council regarding Linscott Park restrictions and whether playground equipment can be moved.

## **5. New Business**

**Charter/Bylaw Recommendations:** Ms. Bandrowicz is generating a letter regarding bylaws proposed by ConCom which she wants the Committee to support.

**Action Item:** Toni to draft letter from OSRPC to support ConCom bylaw requests.

**Farmers Market Table:** The town had asked boards and committees if they want to have an informational table at one of the Farmers Market this summer. OSRPC is organizing a table looking to promote its activities and perhaps specifically focus on promoting open space as an option for Hawthorne. Tentatively planning for November 19 indoor market (as October markets are crowded).

**Action Item:** Ms. Muñoz will inform Ms. Strauss that Committee needs a table.

## **6. OSRP Airtable Review**

**Goal 2** (*Determine whether to expand trash/recycling facilities at all locations or implement "carry in/carry out" program*)

**Action item:** Ms. Lillak will follow up with Ms. Strauss about this goal.

**Goal 6** (*Limit impact of school construction on conservation land or other existing open space*)

**Action item:** Committee will keep an eye on the barrier between the woods and the school, assuring that it happens and is appropriate.

**Goal 7** (*Create site specific maintenance programs in collaboration with DPW and Recreation Depts (and include planning for protection of unique flora/fauna)*)

**Action Item:** Toni to work on Palmer Pond and all needs to be re-done. Not a priority right now

**Goal 8** (*Develop a partnership/committee that includes representatives from ConComm, Swampscott Conservancy, Tree Task Force, and DPW to cohesively work together on plans for improving and maintaining open space*)

**Action Item:** Tania will send email to the committee recommending that Select Committee or Town Administrator recommend partnership/committee. Toni will follow up with Pete Kane asking for ideas for this committee.

**Goal 9** (*Ensure provision of playground/green space of the same square footage or more on site if property is re-used*)

This has been an ongoing discussion in previous goals.

**Goal 10** (*Explore feasibility and grant opportunities for timber management and invasive species removal for Harold King Forest, as recommended by Forest Stewardship Plan*)

**Action Item:** Toni will talk to the town about hiring a contractor to remove Knotweed at Harold King Forest.

## **7. Student involvement**

**Goal 67** (*“Develop a program for a high school student to join the OSRPC each year”*) and **Goal 68** (*“Develop and execute a plan for education in schools about the importance of open space and Town resources”*).

**Action item:** Brian, Lauryn, and Toni to meet before our Nov 14 meeting to discuss how to involve the schools and students. Lauryn to find staff contact at high school. Brian to speak to Lindsay Polizzotti and Mr. Calichman at the middle school to find a staff contact there. Toni mentioned that Conservancy is planning to have a grant program for students to do conservation projects (she'll keep Brian & Lauryn updated on that as it may help with getting students involved).

Toni mentioned that, in writing this month's Nature in the Neighborhood article for the Conservancy, which was about spiders (attached), she discovered that an elementary school class in Hollis, New Hampshire, pushed to have the Governor sign a law designating the jumping spider as the official state spider. She thought it would be fun to see if we could get an elementary class involved in pushing to have Massachusetts designate a particular flora or fauna with the official state stamp. We could use it as an educational tool about the environment, esp. if it was native species, as well as a way of showing youth how laws are made. Massachusetts already has an official flower, tree, insect, reptile, bird, game bird, marine mammal, not to mention dog, cat and horse, see [List of Massachusetts state symbols - Wikipedia](#) but, and she'd have to double check

this, there doesn't appear to be a state "mammal." So maybe a native mammal could be nominated? Or native a shrub? Or maybe eelgrass as an official sea flora and using it to stress the importance of eelgrass in the environment? Be helpful if someone on Open Space or Conservancy has an elementary school student so we could work with their class.

## **8. Memorial/ Monuments policy**

As Mr. Smith has retired from OSRPC, there was discussion on the status of this goal. During the meeting Ms. Lillak shared electronically with the OSRPC the relevant documents to date, including policy and 2-7-23 letter to the Select Board.

**Action Item:** Mr. Longin agreed to research other town policies for monument placement. Potential contacts included: Mike Sweeney, veterans agent for the Town and Lynn, the VFW, Verena Karsten.

## **9. Property Acquisition**

The Committee discussed Archer Street and Hawthorne property updates. Decided to move forward with potential print media and social media initiatives to promote the need for open space and parks in town. Ms. Bandrowicz and Mr. Longin to take lead on articles and Ms. Lillak and Ms. Hart to lead on social media. Tania and Lauryn created FB posts.

**Action Item:** To promote the Hawthorne property as open space, Brian and Toni will write articles for print media.

**Action Item:** Tania will follow up with Marzie on Archer Street trails and next Hawthorne Forum.

## **10. Green Corridor**

**Goal 73** *Identify green corridor network system to connect open space & recreation facilities (streets and access easements)*

As mentioned in the discussion above, Ms. Bandrowicz noted that she and Ms. Galaska are working on having signage for White Court done by a local sign company, which could potentially also make Green Corridor signage.

**Action Item:** Ms. Bandrowicz and Mr. Longin will discuss updates for Green Corridor going forward, including signage. Ms. Bandrowicz will continue to research green infrastructure. Ms. Muñoz will reach out to Ms. Galaska and Alexis, chair of rail trail to see about connecting or scheduling a meeting regarding rail trail and green corridor overlap.

## **11. Task Force update – Rights of Ways, Paper Streets, Public Ways & Easements**

**Action Item:** Katie will check in with the TA re: KP Law for Rights of Ways, etc. information. Steve emailed Sean asking for help

## **12. Community Development Update**

Rail Trail – at the 10/04/23 Select Board meeting, the SB voted to reverse the eminent domain taking from National Grid. This vote resolved the litigation by National Grid, and in exchange town and National Grid will enter into a 99 year lease along the utility corridor that will allow the construction of the rail trail. The funding for the Rail Trail (Bradlee to Stetson Ave) will be provided by the TIP (federal funding, programmed by the Metropolitan Planning Organization). Currently, the design is being reviewed by MassDOT. They requested a peer review. We are awaiting results of the peer review. This is standard process.

## **13. Swampscott Conservancy update**

Ms. Bandrowicz explained some tentative dates for presentations (likely live at UU Church) including the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy on 10/25 6:30 pm (jointly hosted with Clifton Improvement or CIA), Raptors are the Solution (about rodenticides harming birds of prey Assoc.) on 11/8 (again jointly with CIA), and a live bird presentation by Tailwinds on 11/29.

Moreover, Ms. Bandrowicz said they are moving forward with construction of a stream crossing on the Forest River Connector trail, that a town resident has kindly offered to fund. They have been coordinating with the Friends of Salem Woods which has located a carpenter who has constructed boardwalks in conservation areas and is willing to do the work here.. The Stream crossing boardwalk is almost done

## **14. Committee/Department update – Climate Action Plan (CAP)**

Ms. Muñoz explained they meet monthly and are beginning to action plan. Related to open space is pedestrian and bike ways, and overlap with tree committee and Concom. The work is ongoing and seems to be going well. Lots of outreach over solar, outreach with senior center, looking at more EV charging stations in town.

## **15. Committee/Department update – Tree Committee**

The Tree Committee will be their own entity moving forward and will no longer attend OSRPC meetings regularly. Representatives from both committees will be involved in any meetings going forward if needed.

## **16. Committee/Department update - Conservation Commission**

ConCom has written a letter in response to the Select Board's request for any potential Town Charter or Bylaws revisions that could be made to better effectuate the Commission mission. The letter includes mention of a local wetlands bylaw, private seawall inspections and maintenance, and lighting restrictions relating to bird migration, No application for seawall fix for mission on the bay, Toni is working on a seawall inspection program. ConCom has discussed a light pollution by-law

#### **17. Community Preservation Act**

Mr. Longin explained that he received some introductory material from Mr. Grishman but had not heard about meetings yet.

**Action Item:** Brian will follow up with David Grishman re: CPA progress.

#### **18. Planning Board and Historical Commission**

No updates

#### **19. Committee/Department update – Recreation Commission:**

No updates

#### **20. Other business**

None.

#### **22. Confirmation of next meeting date**

Next meeting is Nov. 14, which is planned to be virtual, on Microsoft Teams.

**Meeting then adjourned.**

