

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee Meeting MINUTES – September 12, 2023 at Town Hall

Members Present: Tania Lillak (Chair), Toni Bandrowicz (Vice Chair), Sierra Muñoz, Brian Longin, and Lauryn Hart

Members Absent: Danielle Strauss (Recreation Director), Verena Karsten (Tree Committee), Steve Banks, Angela Ippolito (Planning Board), and Marzie Galazka (Community & Econ. Develop)

Town Representatives: Katie Phelan (Select Board)

Other Participants: Shauna Vera, candidate for committee

Meeting called to order and recording started at 7:07 pm

1. **Minute taker assignment** Brian Longin

2. **Public Comment** None

3. **Approval of minutes** Sierra moved to approve minutes from August 15, 2023, which was seconded by Tania, 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 said he has finalized plans and sent them to Ms. Meaney to send to Concom.

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.*)

Sierra informed the Committee Dan Proulx is unfortunately largely unavailable. Town-wide progress is being made on awareness of interacting with wildlife. Deb Newman has spearheaded tables at farmers markets educating on these issues too.

Action Item: Sierra will ask at the next SC meeting if Goals 69 and 76 regarding wildlife are being addressed.

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.

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

Following up on the lengthy discussion at the last meeting on the playground / green space at Hadley property, Ms. Phelan said that the RFP includes compliance with all zoning therefore if Ms. Ippolito confirmed the 15% for open space was in the zoning then the open space should be ok. Ms. Phelan also expressed concern for that playground equipment which should be re-used.

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

New Member: Ms. Shauna Vera was introduced to the OSRPC and unanimously voted in as a new member after a motion by Ms. Lillak which was seconded by Ms. Muñoz.

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 October 15th.

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 3 *Develop maintenance and design guidelines for roads, paths, islands, and lighting (add special emphasis on developing design guidelines in Olmsted District)*
Committee decided to put on hold in the "parking lot" until signage issues are rectified.

Goal 4 (*Develop park landscaping utilizing beach-appropriate and environmentally-suitable species and materials*)

Committee discussed this goal and determined to continue to monitor these issues. No action items were established at this time.

Goal 5 (*Develop playground maintenance, equipment replacement, and safety program*)

The Committee considers this goal to be completed.

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”*).

Mr. Longin, Ms. Bandrowicz, and Ms. Hart met this month to discuss ideas for how to better plan for student involvement with the Committee. They discussed potentially trying to use students to better persuade the general public about open space as a priority and that potentially the Committee could use a farmers market table to do so with interesting visual material. Also, they discussed trying to find ways to gather feedback from students throughout the Town regarding their wishes for the Hawthorne development. Potentially, the green scholars group at the high school could get going again. Ms. Bandrowicz explained that a middle school science teacher named Lindsay Polizzotti could be a good partner and that she has worked with her in the past. The honor society tries to do 1-3 projects a year, and that the Conservancy has discussed a potential scholarship to entice students to participate. Mr. Longin said he could reach out to middle school principal Mr. Calichman once the Committee has generated some more formal plans. Ms. Muñoz said specific campaigns or actions can catalyze progress. One high school student is responsible for petition for micro forest. Maybe open space at Hawthorne could trigger a student too.

Action item: 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.

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.

Action Item: To promote the Hawthorne property as open space, Brian and Toni will write articles for print media and Lauryn and Tania will do posts for social media.

Action Item: Update from 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.

12. Community Development Update

No updates as Ms. Galaska was absent.

13. Swampscott Conservancy update

Ms. Bandrowicz explained some tentative dates for presentations (likely live at UU Church) including the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy on 10/5 (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 plan is for him to construct the first crossing on Sat. Sept. 30rd. That crossing was chosen first because the terrain is easier; the second site is planned to be done later in fall/early spring.

Ms. Bandrowicz continued to explain that lumber will be delivered to the "lobster pot" area at the Connector trailhead earlier that week where the carpenter will cut the wood and that volunteers are needed to help haul the wood in from the lobster pot area to the site. Please contact Ms. Bandrowicz if you can volunteer.

Lastly Ms. Bandrowicz said more summer hikes are scheduled for 9/17 at 11AM and 9/23 at 11AM, both are Harold King Walks.

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.

15. Committee/Department update – Tree Committee

No updates provided as Ms. Karsten was absent.

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,

17. Community Preservation Act

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

18. Planning Board and Historical Commission

No updates

19. Committee/Department update – Recreation Commission:

Ms. Strauss provided updates that included the Humphrey Street Block party being a huge success and that open space was used for community and business. It was a very busy summer and Town Hall Lawn and Linscott Park were used for Programs as well as New Ocean beach for yoga. Town Hall lawn will also host a new outdoor Zumba class starting next month. The farmers market has also been busy this summer with about 40 vendors each week. Town Hall and home yard sales coming up on September 23rd and the Car Show on Town Hall lawn, Monument Ave and Linscott Park on October 8th.

20. Other business

None.

22. Confirmation of next meeting date

Next meeting is Oct. 10, which is planned to be virtual, on Microsoft Teams.

Meeting then adjourned.

Parking Lot

Goal 3 *Develop maintenance and design guidelines for roads, paths, islands, and lighting (add special emphasis on developing design guidelines in Olmsted District)*
Committee decided to put on hold in the “parking lot” until signage issues are rectified.