

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – April 10, 2018 Minutes

Time: 7:05 – 9:00 PM Location: Swampscott Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Tania Lillak, Chair; Toni Bandrowicz, Vice Chair; Jim Olivetti, Clerk; Richard Smith, Sarah Koch, Sara Hepburn, Danielle Strauss, Recreation Director

Members Absent: Angela Ippolito, Planning Board Chair; Pete Kane, Director of Community Development; Patrick Jones, Selectman Liaison.

The minutes of the March 20, 2018 meeting were approved.

AGENDA ITEMS

Organic Lawn Management update:

Sarah reported that Gino Cresta met with the contractor, Pure Solutions. The trial of the organic turf management system will be conducted at the Phillips Park practice field instead of Linscott Park. The trial should begin soon.

Friends of Swampscott Conservation Land update:

Toni reported that the second meeting of the Friends did not draw very many participants. She said she plans to coordinate a Friends activity with the event planned for Harold King Forest in early May.

Community Garden update:

The location of the community garden is being narrowed down. A landscape architect, Kathy Bradford, is performing *pro bono* work to develop site plans for the alternative sites. A non-profit organization is being set up to raise money for maintenance, etc.

Committee/Department update – Conservation

Danielle discussed working with the selectmen to establish a policy for setting fees for use of Linscott Park and other conservation lands for private events like weddings. There is a possibility of transferring fees collected to the Conservation Commission to pay for maintenance of the conservation areas.

Committee/Department update – Historical

Richard commented on the Historical Commission's decision to impose a demolition delay for the redevelopment of the White Court property, noting that the Commission received no proof or documentation from the developers that it was not feasible to renovate that historic building, rather than tearing it down.

Committee/Department update – Planning

Toni reported that, as a member of the Conservation Commission, she would be attending an upcoming Planning Board meeting to introduce the subject of inclusion of climate change in future zoning decisions and bylaws.

Committee/Department update – Recreation

Danielle announced that the date for the "Celebrating Harold King Forest" event will take place Sunday May 6th. The event will include a variety of activities such as tours of the forest provided by the boy scouts, Bioblitz data gathering, geocaching, health department information on ticks, etc.

Task Force update – Tree Advisory:

Jim reported that the task force is surveying the recent Nor'easter tree damage and will make recommendations to Gino for replacement of downed trees.

At the last OS&RPC meeting, Toni asked if the Tree Advisory Task Force could recommend species and location for a tree in memory of Nelson Kessler. Jim reported back that one possibility could be one or more white pines at Howland Park, which were called for in the original replanting plan, but never planted.

A question was raised about whether or not Swampscott should look into legal action against National Grid for damage to street trees from gas leaks.

Action Item: Jim said he would follow up.

Other Business:

Jim asked if there were Town Meeting warrant items that the OS&RPC should take a position on. He mentioned the proposed plastic bag ban which is apparently listed on the draft warrant.

Action Item: Tania said she would add a review of the approved warrant at our next meeting and that there would be time to plan for a Committee response if needed before Town Meeting.

Review of OS&R Plan & Airtable Tutorial:

Sara gave an overview of how the OS&RP objectives appear on the new Airtable spread sheet. As a test, the members reviewed the first five objectives and made updates and changes. Members expressed gratitude to Sara for her hard work with the software to pull this together.

Action Item: The ongoing strategy is for the Committee to review at least 5 objectives per meeting in an effort to focus its efforts on carrying out the Plan. Members should bring electronic devices to future meetings to expedite this process.

The next OS&RPC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 8, 2018.