

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – October 10, 2017 Minutes

Time: 7:05 – 8:45 PM Location: Town Hall Second Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Tania Lillak, Chair; Toni Bandrowicz, Vice Chair Jim Olivetti, Clerk; Richard Smith, 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 September 12, 2017 meeting were approved.

The Committee welcomed Sara Hepburn as a new member, replacing Mary Webster. Long time member Sarah Pruett informed the chair that she was resigning from the Committee. A replacement for Sarah will be sought.

Review of previous meeting's action items

- Eagle Scout project: Danielle reported that the Eagle Scout project in Harold King Forest is underway. At least some of the path markers are in place. The Scout is considering doing some fundraising at the Farmer's Market to cover the costs of the planned kiosk.
- Invasive plants: Toni reported that there has still been no discussion by the Conservation Commission on assessing invasive species on conservation lands.
- Temporary ice rink: Danielle reported that communities she spoke to often will use a basketball court to house a temporary rink. These are subject to vandalism and need to be supervised by a group of dedicated parents. Further discussion when Gino Cresta joined the meeting yielded the conclusion that Danielle and Gino would consider as a trial, flooding a portion of the field at the Clarke School this winter, using a hydrant as water source, if the weather was cold enough. (Objective #31)

AGENDA ITEMS

Most of the remainder of the meeting was devoted to discussion with Gino Cresta, Jr., Director of Public Works. Topics below grew out of a meeting Toni and Jim had with Gino on September 15th, as well as ongoing issues needing DPW involvement.

Blythswood easement:

There is more urgency to move forward on this project as it appears White Court has been purchased and any public access to that adjacent property is now in doubt. A major question that needs to be answered involves the extent to which **ADA requirements** would apply to the development of a path through the easement. The sloping terrain, extent of ledge, presence of abandoned vehicles, and narrowness of the easement, which would not allow much room for switchbacks, present significant challenges. There may be a need to conduct an **official survey** of the easement, as there seems to be some discrepancy between the property owner's view of the location of the path and what is included in the agreement document. Gino suggested that posts with rope connecting them might be an effective and inexpensive way to delineate the path through the easement. There is also a requirement for signage called for in the agreement document. He estimated \$25,000 would be needed for survey work and drilling into ledge for some of the posts.

Danielle stressed the need to promote the easement path, once constructed, to let residents know it is available for use.

Action Item: The ADA requirements for the development of the path and existence of a reliable survey of

the easement need to be determined. Toni will work with Pete on these two items.

Action Item: A second walk through with the property owner, Pete, Gino, and, perhaps, Sean Fitzgerald, will be needed once survey and ADA requirements determination are completed.

Foster Pond and negotiations with Aggregate:

The Committee encourages Gino to consider addressing with Aggregate the possibility of the town acquiring some of their property abutting Foster Pond to the South and behind Windsor Park. One parcel particularly is adjacent to town property and might together create a new small town park providing access to the Pond for fishing and/or canoe/kayak launch. Toni noted that research done by the town in the 1980's revealed that abutters do not own the land under the pond.

Action Item: Toni volunteered to send a message to Gino and Sean about the specifics of what the Committee believes should be negotiated with Aggregate on Foster Pond and Windsor Park.

Path to Eisman's Beach from Phillips:

Gino confirmed that he would be able to use DPW resources to improve the path substantially, through grading, fill, etc., with the hope to have the work done for the 2018 beach season.

Action Item: Jim will prepare a description of the work needed and send a formal request from the Committee.

No Dumping Signs:

These signs have still not been placed as requested. Gino said he would look into this.

40 Steps railing repairs:

Gino texted the welder during the meeting, who said he would schedule the work. Jim reported that the railing has deteriorated further since the initial request for repairs.

Harold King Forest:

At Danielle's request, Gino agreed to inspect the entrance to Harold King Forest path to see if access improvements could be made using current DPW resources.

Tree Inventory: Gino reported that he is still waiting for the three phases of the inventory to be combined into one database by the consultant. He is using the inventory as a reference for tree maintenance and removal tasks.

Capital Improvement Request Form:

It was decided that four items will be added to the OSRPC Capital Improvement Plan.

1. Blythwood Easment Path – estimated cost \$25,000
2. Street Tree Replacement – estimated cost \$20,000
3. Kings Beach Seawall – estimated cost \$200,000
4. Eisehans Beach Seawall – estimated cost \$200,000

Action Item: Tania will complete the form and send it to Ron Mendes, Financial Committee.

Committee Letters on Town Website:

The Committee supported Jim's suggestion to post an archive of letters prepared by the OS&RPC on it web page on the town web site.

Action Item: Jim will request that Pete make this addition to the Committee web page.

Friends of Swampscott Conservation Land:

This group would operate outside of the town's purview. Toni plans to contact individuals who expressed interest in forming such a "Friends of" group to hold an initial organizing meeting.

Note: Agenda items relating to Reorganization ideas for the OS&RPC objectives spreadsheet and "In lieu of fees" for 40B developments were postponed until the next meeting.

Committee/Department update – DPW:

The Committee discussed with Gino the need for additional DPW resources to meet objectives in the Open Space Plan.

Action Item: Tania will meet with Gino to discuss specific DPW resource requirements to achieve objectives such as organic field and lawn management, maintenance of planting areas along Monument Ave and Howland Park, etc. The goal is to formally state the OS&RPC's position to the Finance Committee of the importance of these increased budgetary needs.

Committee/Department update – Rail Trail:

Sara Hepburn volunteered to be the Committee's liaison to the town Rail Trail Implementation Committee.

Committee/Department update – Tree Advisory Task Force:

Jim has contacted Patti Jones and Verena Karsten and has set a first meeting date of November 7. Sara Hepburn volunteered to be added to the task force.

Task Force update – K-12 School Plan:

Tania will be attending a meeting of the Task Force on October 13, 2017. She will provide an update and the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2017.