

## **Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – November 28, 2017 Minutes**

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

Members Present: Tania Lillak, Chair; Toni Bandrowicz, Vice Chair Jim Olivetti, Clerk; Richard Smith, Sara Hepburn, Sarah Koch, 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 October 10, 2017 meeting were approved.

The Committee welcomed Sarah Koch as a new member, replacing Sarah Pruett. Tania will forward Sarah's name to the Board of Selectmen to be added to the member roster.

The first part of the meeting was devoted to a presentation from Colleen Hitchcock, a member of the Conservation Commission. She briefed the Committee on a bioblitz citizen science program she is planning for Swampscott teens in Spring 2018 based on the iNaturalist mobile application that facilitates creation of a localized species occurrence database. Colleen requested that the OS&RPC identify topics that could be addressed by data collected through the bioblitz.

Action Item: Toni suggested the Committee review pending objectives from the Open Space Plan, such as invasive plants control and species inventory at Harold King Forest, to identify such topics and share them with Colleen.

### Review of previous meeting's action items

- Eagle Scout project: The Eagle Scout project at Harold King Forest is complete, including construction of a kiosk that will contain information on the Forest. Danielle noted that the Fire Chief approved the location of the kiosk that is close to a hydrant. She said that provision was made for a lock for the kiosk display case.
- Invasive plants: Toni reported that the Conservation Commission is taking the lead on this issue. They are looking into available grants to fund invasive plant control at Palmer Pond and other conservation lands. Cost estimates from companies that do invasive control are needed.
- 40 Steps public way: Gino advised the Committee that the welding work on the railing is completed.

### AGENDA ITEMS

#### **Harold King Forest:**

Jim and Danielle separately took hikes recently in the Forest. Both noted near the rusted out 1950's era car, that some view as a historical resource, dumping of appliances and other trash is taking place. The entrance to the trail from the parking lot is also in need of improvement. Finally, Jim noted a large stand of Japanese knotweed bordering the parking lot that will spread into the Forest if not knocked back.

Action Item: SeeClickFix on the town website could be used to report these issues.

#### **Path to Eisman's Beach:**

Jim prepared a memo to Gino on the improvements needed to the path from Phillips Park to Eisman's Beach based on the September site visit made with Gino. The Committee approved the memo.

Action Item: Tania will sign and send the memo on to Gino. It is our understanding that the work should be completed in time for the 2018 beach season using DPW resources.

**Blythswood easement:**

Toni stated that the Conservation Commission is overall in control of the easement and that funds from the ConComm are available to pay for construction of a public way as described in the easement document; and that the members were inclined to vote to appropriate money for this project, but she needs to have a description and estimate of the work to take to the Commission. Some of the work can be done using DPW resources. She also reported that Angela Ippolito stated at a recent meeting that an official survey exists as a reference for establishment of the public way. Toni felt it would make most sense for the Little's Point taskforce (formerly the White Court taskforce) to oversee creation of the path. There was no formal opposition to this position, so, at this time, no further action relating to the Blythswood easement on the part of the OS&RPC was identified.

**Friends of Swampscott Conservation Land:**

Toni expressed her intention to call an initial meeting of the Friends group soon. This group would operate outside of the town's governing structure.

**Foster Pond and Aggregate property:**

Toni reported that Brandy Wilbur, STEM Program Coordinator at SHS, will be focusing the high school green scholars on measuring water quality at Foster Pond. There has been no reply to Toni's email to Gino and Sean about the Aggregate negotiations relating to land at Foster Pond and Windsor Park.

Action Item: Toni will attempt to arrange for a meeting with Gino and Sean on the Aggregate property negotiations.

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

**Community Garden update:** Sarah K reported that there are two possible sites for the proposed community garden, one at First Church opposite the town hall, the other on land adjacent to the Bertram House on Humphrey Street. Both sites would require fairly expensive soil tests to determine whether or not there are pollutants at the sites. A group of residents has applied for a Cultural Council grant to defray some of the costs of establishing the gardens. Richard suggested that an informal presentation be made to the Historical District Commission to receive feedback on the First Church site.

**Committee/Department update – Rail Trail:**

Sara Hepburn summarized the state of rail trail planning, since the charrette was held. She is attending meetings of the Rail Trail Design and Advisory Committee as the OS&RPC liaison.

**Committee/Department update – Tree Advisory Task Force:**

Tania summarized the first meeting of the tree advisory task force held on November 7. The purpose of the task force is to monitor and protect the town tree canopy. Task Force members will be involved in town tree hearings, choices for tree replacement, developing a master tree planting plan, as well as providing tree education for the town.

Gino attended the meeting which helped the group get off to a productive start. Verena Karsten has agreed to be the team leader of the task force. Other members are Patti Jones, Sarah Hepburn, Jim Olivetti and Tania Lillak (ex officio).

**Committee/Department update – Recreation**

Danielle reported that the new playground adjacent to Blocksidge Field is nearing completion.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2017.