

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – March 20, 2018 Minutes

Time: 7:15 – 8:45 PM Location: Swampscott Senior Center

Members Present: Tania Lillak, Chair; Toni Bandrowicz, Vice Chair; Jim Olivetti, Clerk; Richard Smith, Sarah Koch.

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

The minutes of the February 13, 2018 meeting were approved.

Review of previous meeting's action items

- Toni Bandrowicz reported that the Conservation Commission voted to approve erosion control at the entrance to Harold King Forest, as recommended in the OS&RPC's letter to Gino Cresta dated January 12, 2018.
- Sara Hepburn provided read-only access to the Committee's objectives data on Airtable. The Airtable software tutorial planned for the meeting was postponed.

AGENDA ITEMS

Organic Lawn Management discussion and vote:

Sarah Koch reviewed the two proposals for an organic lawn maintenance pilot program at Linscott Park. A unanimous vote was recorded after lengthy discussion to recommend to the DPW Director that the town work with Pure Solutions of Weston to carry out the one-year pilot program.

Action Item: Sarah will notify Gino of the Committee's recommendation to contract with Pure Solutions.

Friends of Swampscott Conservation Land:

Toni provided the Committee with an update on the Friends group. The second meeting did not attract the number of participants that came to the first meeting. This reduced attendance may have been weather related. Another organizational meeting is planned to coincide with activities around the upcoming Bioblitz at the end of April.

Foster Pond and Aggregate property update:

Negotiations are apparently ongoing with Aggregate on a number of fronts.

Action Item: Toni will ask Pete about the status of the possible acquisition of Aggregate-owned parcels around Foster Pond

Community Garden update:

Sarah reported continued progress on developing a community garden. A name for the garden program is still being determined. Paperwork to establish a 501 c (3) organization has been submitted. The location of the garden is being finalized.

Committee/Department update – Conservation

Toni has worked with Pete Kane to prepare a warrant article for the upcoming town meeting titled: *Appropriation of Interest Earned from Wetlands Protection Filings*. The appropriated interest would

be targeted for use in maintaining and improving Swampscott conservation lands. Jim Olivetti suggested that some preparation be made to convince town meeting members of the wisdom of this change.

Action Item: Toni will email the proposed warrant article to Committee members.

Committee/Department update – Historical

Richard announced that a public hearing will take place on March 27th to gauge residents' sentiments about the application for demolition of White Court as part of the normal process for evaluation of historic property changes.

On another matter, the Committee was encouraged by Richard's observation that plans to develop 133 Puritan Road were amended to preserve the existing building, in response to neighborhood negative reactions to the developer's original proposal. The OS&RPC's detailed letter dated September 13, 2017 calling out deficiencies in the developer's Site Eligibility (Chap 40B) Application may have also influenced the developer to modify his plans.

Committee/Department update – Recreation

Danielle requested via email that the Committee advise her on a choice of date for a celebration of the Eagle Scout project at Harold King Forest, that would involve a number of activities including guided tours of the Forest by scouts. The Committee recommended May 19th from 1 to 3pm.

Action Item: Tania will get back to Danielle with the Committee's recommendation.

Task Force update – Tree Advisory:

Jim reported that the Tree Advisory Task Force was moving forward with its recommendation to Gino for street tree planting in front of Hawthorne by the Sea and at Fisherman's Beach. Several new residents are joining the group.

Toni asked if the task force would consider the choice of tree species and location for a tree commemorating Nelson Kessler's contributions to Swampscott.

Action Item: Jim will bring the question of a Nelson Kessler memorial tree to the Task Force at its meeting on March 27th. He will also ask John McLaughlin if there were trees that were not actually planted that were included in the Howland Park landscape plan that might be appropriate for this use.

The next OS&RPC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 10, 2018.