

## **Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – January 9, 2018 Minutes**

Time: 7:00 – 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, 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 December 12, 2017 meeting were approved.

The meeting began with a summary by Richard Smith of the proposed development of the White Court property. Richard reported on the developers initial presentation to town officials and members of the Historic Commission and Planning Board. The Committee was encouraged to learn that part of the developer's proposal included preserving much of the water-facing lawn area and widening the existing public right of way easement on the Blythwood property bordering White Court by ten feet on the White Court side; and including an ocean overlook area available for public use at the terminus of the path created by the expanded easement. Richard distributed a sketch he had made of the expanded right of way and overlook.

Committee members expressed concern that some of the development options being considered did not include preservation of the historic White Court mansion.

Action Item: The OS&RPC should express its interest in being included in planning how the easement and public overlook is created. Tania will talk to Pete Kane about ensuring that the Committee is included in such planning going forward.

### Review of previous meeting's action items

- Tania will send a followup email to Gino concerning improvements requested to the Eisman's Beach path from Phillips Park in the Committee's December 5, 2017 letter to him, as the Committee has not received any response from him.
- Bioblitz project: Toni reported she has not as yet identified topics for the high school student managed Bioblitz project scheduled for April 28. Jim suggested that the trees on the town hall lawns would be a good target for one project. Most of the trees, except for those right on Monument Avenue, were not included in the tree inventory. Sarah Koch supported this idea, suggesting that a guide to the town hall trees could be generated as well.

### AGENDA ITEMS

#### **Letter to DPW on town forest**

The draft letter was approved with changes. Jim will revise it and send to Tania for her signature and transmittal to Gino Cresta.

Action Item: Toni will inform the Conservation Commission of requested changes to the trail entrance.

#### **Reorganization ideas for Open Space Plan objectives spreadsheet:**

Sara Hepburn reviewed what she has done so far on the objectives spreadsheet using the Airtable software. The Committee greeted her progress with enthusiasm.

Action Item: Sara will provide access to the database for all Committee members. Tania will make a first pass at reviewing Sara's work.

**Mitigation/impact fee:**

Discussion postponed until a meeting that Pete Kane is able to attend.

**Organic Land Management plan:**

Tania reported progress on this objective. Gino expressed interest in going forward with a trial of organic management at Linscott Park. Tania has requested quotes from several landscaping companies for cost per square foot for organic land management. In discussion, other companies to request bids from were identified.

Action Item: Tania and Sarah will continue to gather quotes from landscapers.

**Friends of Swampscott Conservation Land:**

The date for the initial meeting of the Friends is scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup> at Panera. Toni is publicizing the event through various social media channels and the town web site. Bob French of the Marblehead Conservancy has agreed to attend to provide information on that organization.

**Foster Pond and Aggregate property:**

Action is proceeding on two fronts: A citizen science project has been initiated through a phone call between the EPA and SHS faculty member Brandi Wilbur on water quality testing at the pond. On December 19, Tania resubmitted the Committee's Capital Improvement Plan request form to Ron Mendez to include funds to purchase 7 parcels of land on Foster Pond from Aggregate.

Action Item: Toni will email Gino and Sean to inform them that the Committee has put in this request through the CIP process.

**Community Garden update:** Sarah reported that the First Church lawn is being considered as the initial site for the garden, with the Bertram House site to follow later. A meeting is scheduled for January 17 to discuss funding options.

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

Sara reported on a meeting she attended. National Grid representatives were present, but did not contribute substantially to the discussion.

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

The task force is scheduled to meet on January 16, with Verena Karsten as task force convener.

The next OS&RPC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 13, 2018.