

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – June 12, 2018 Minutes

Time: 7:05 – 8:35 PM Location: Town Hall, Second Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Tania Lillak, Chair; Jim Olivetti, Clerk; Sara Hepburn, Richard Smith, Sarah Koch.

Members Absent: Toni Bandrowicz, Vice Chair; Angela Ippolito, Planning Board Chair; Danielle Strauss, Recreation Director; Patrick Jones, Selectman Liaison

The minutes of the regular meeting June 12, 2018 were approved with corrections.

Review of previous meeting's action items

- Jim emailed Sean Fitzgerald on the potential damage to street trees in Swampscott caused by National Grid gas leaks. Sean replied on July 2nd that he was really concerned about the issue and would discuss it with Gino Cresta.

Action Item: Jim and Sara Hepburn will bring this issue up at the next Tree Advisory Taskforce meeting.

- The issue of carry in/carry out trash in parks and beaches was postponed until a future meeting when Danielle is in attendance. This is Objective #12 in the OS&RP. The Committee's overarching objective is to provide a litter-free open space experience for residents.

Action Item: Jim will contact other beachfront communities (Scituate, Cohasset, Beverly) to determine what policies are in place for handling trash in parks and beaches.

AGENDA ITEMS

Appointment of new clerk:

It was decided to postpone the decision on appointing a new clerk until the next meeting. Possibilities identified to record minutes include: a single new clerk; co-clerks; a rotating clerk.

Action Item: Appoint a replacement for Jim Olivetti, who is stepping down after a two-year term.

OS&RP objectives review

Items 16 through 20 were reviewed and discussed; Airtable database spreadsheet updated accordingly.

Dog Park Update:

Richard Smith reported that no one from the dog park effort has contacted him thus far.

Action Item: In his capacity as Committee representative to the dog park development project, Richard will contact Jen Dorsey to offer his services and determine what progress has been made.

Organic Lawn Management Update:

Sarah Koch was on site at Phillips practice field with the Pure Solutions crew during a recent treatment application of wet and dry mix. She reported that communication seems to be going well between the contractor and DPW. Early results are quite positive, with an obvious improvement in field conditions compared with adjacent untreated field. Some social media coverage, including the Committee's blog, has been undertaken.

Action Item: Sara Hepburn volunteered to start a Facebook page for the Committee that can feature the organic program. The possibility of drone filming of the organically managed field was also in the works.

Swampscott Conservancy:

In Toni's absence, Jim reported that the group is making good progress, with a promotional table scheduled for the Farmer's Market in September, business cards being printed, and several other projects including one with the public library in the planning stages.

Community Garden update:

Sarah is gathering letters of support from relevant town committees. Tania prepared a supporting letter from the OS&RPC which was unanimously approved at this meeting. The Bertram site is under wetlands protection so several forms need to be prepared for Conservation Commission review. The plan as of now is to start with a crop planting in Spring, 2019.

Action Item: Tania will contact Pete Kane to see if he is updating the web site and can post the supporting letter to the Committee correspondence archive.

Committee/Department update – Conservation

Discussion of a grant to address invasive species in town open space was postponed due to Toni's absence.

Committee/Department update – DPW

The Committee noted that there has been no improvements made to the path from the Phillips Park parking lot to access Eisman's Beach. These improvements were requested in a December 5, 2017 letter to DPW.

Committee/Department update – Rail Trail

The Committee is not aware of any further developments with the rail trail project.

Action Item: Sara will contact Ryan Conner to learn what the status of the project is and report back to the Committee.

The next OS&RPC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 18, 2018.