

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – April 12, 2016, Minutes

Time: 7:05 PM – 8:50 PM **Location:** Town Hall 1st Floor Conference Room **Members Present:** Mary Webster, Jim Olivetti, Toni Bandrowicz, Tania Lillak, Richard Smith & Sarah Pruett **Ex-Officios Present:** , Planning Board Chair; Angela Ippolito **Ex-Officios Absent:** Town Planner; Pete Kane, Recreation Director; Danielle Strauss,

-Mary brought the meeting to order at 7:05. Jim made a motion to approve the March 8, 2016 minutes. Toni second. Approved.

-Tania – Tree Inventory Update, April 12, 2016, (*See Appendix #1)

Mary – Danielle, Gino and Pete met with the Little Tykes Playground Equipment Company. They are moving forward with the equipment for Superior playground.

Richard made a motion to accept the statement written from Open Space to the Selectman with regard to the Machon School property RFP's. Angela second. Approved.

The text of Richard's motion follows:

"In its letter of 16 December 2015, the Open Space and Recreation Committee identified the following priorities for the redevelopment of the historic Machon School- historic preservation, incorporation of affordable senior housing and creation of open space onsite, and enhancing the open space of Jackson Park with connections to Burpee Road.

The town has received two proposals for the redevelopment of the Machon School as affordable senior housing from B'Nai B'Rith/ Covenant Commonwealth and Stratford/ North Shore CDC. Our preliminary review of the two proposals finds that the Stratford/ North Shore CDC proposal provides more open green space onsite, a connection to Jackson Park at the west end, and a smaller addition footprint, which allows a parking plan that paves less of the site. The open green space connecting Burpee Road to the playground is a very significant feature for the neighborhood. While we would need further information to fully evaluate the proposals, we find that the Stratford/ North Shore CDC proposal better addresses the concerns and priorities of the Open Space and Recreation Committee."

Greenwood Ave property - Toni will draft a letter to the selectmen. (**See Appendix #2) The Planning Board's public meeting on the Planned Development District proposal for the Greenwood Avenue property is April 25th.

Sarah – Beyond Pesticides has selected Swampscott to be the site of one of their pilot programs to help communities switch from a chemical turf management protocol to an organic protocol. Beyond Pesticides will fund the education portion and the Town will fund the products and services portion of the program. Sarah made a motion for Open Space to support an organic turf pilot program with Beyond Pesticides. Toni second. Approved.

Jim – Abutters to the Rail Trail are being surveyed to find out how they feel about the trail. There are 153 abutters to the rail trail. All abutter property owners will be surveyed.

Toni – Mark Mahoney has resigned from Con Com. Tom Ruskin is the new chair. Jennifer Simon is a new member. Con Com voted to survey Ewing Woods. The question, how to manage the LMP, was raised. Making a list of what needs to be done and checking items off as completed was suggested. Taking a tour of Ewing Woods with Rebecca Ingalls could start process.

Toni is working on a Draft for the Harold King Forest LMP.

At 8:50 PM, Sarah made a motion to adjourn. Mary seconded. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Sarah Pruett, Secretary Our next meeting is scheduled for May 10.

*Appendix #1

TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Elihu Thomson Administration Building

22 Monument Avenue

Swampscott, MA 01907

Tree Inventory Update

April 12, 2016

- Allan Fenner from SavATree completed a tree inventory for the Town of Swampscott.

- He inventoried 969 trees which is approximately 1/3-1/2 of the park and street trees in Swampscott. Another inventory is needed to capture the rest of the trees. It is estimated that there are 1000-1500 trees left.
- The most prevalent tree was the Norway maple.
- The second most prevalent tree was the Ornamental Cherry tree.
- 86% of the trees were rated Fair to Good. 14% of the trees were rated Poor or less.
- Most of the Poor rated trees were Norway maples. Eventual loss of these trees can be considered beneficial for future management of the tree canopy, since Norway maples are considered to be an invasive species.
- Six trees were in Critical condition (all Norway maples), but not all need to be removed as some locations do not pose safety risks.
- 18 trees were rated Priority 1 for care.
- Pruning of the Poor rated trees is recommended to hopefully bring them up to Fair.
- 50% of the trees inventoried were of the maple species.
- It will be important to consider species diversity for future management. Species diversity will help mitigate the effects of disease.
- Allan will be meeting with Gino of the DPW this Thursday April 14, to discuss the final report.
- Once the report is submitted and discussed with Gino, it will be available to the Open Space committee to review.

****Appendix #2**

Dear Chairman Dreeben:

I am writing as Chair of the Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan (OS&RP) Committee regarding the future of the Greenwood Avenue School property. We understand that the Board of Selectmen is planning to further discuss options for the property including proposing a warrant article at this year's Town meeting to rezone the property as a Planned Development District (PDD).

Given the undeniable importance of open space to providing a healthy living environment for the residents of Swampscott, we believe it is essential that, in all cases involving the redevelopment of town-owned property (such as the Machon School and Greenwood Avenue school properties), the Town first consider the suitability of using the entire parcel for passive or active open space. At a minimum, however, the Town should *always require* that a portion of the property be reserved for open space and public access. Moreover, the Town needs to put in place design guidelines for the redevelopment of any town-owned properties to ensure that a sense of openness is maintained in the area and the character of the neighborhood safeguarded.

Our Committee plays a key role in representing the best interests of the Town through the implementation of the OS&RP -- including the plan's primary goal of expanding and improving open space and recreational facilities in the Town. For that reason, we believe the OS&RP Committee should have the opportunity to participate in the crafting of both the PDD Bylaw and any subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Greenwood Avenue School property. Representatives from the OS&RP Committee plan to attend the public hearing for the PDD Bylaw on April 25th. In the future, we request the opportunity to participate in the development of any resulting RFP for the property.

We look forward to working with the Board of Selectmen and other Town entities to ensure that goals of the OS&RP are met and open space preserved in our community.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,

Mary Webster, Chair
OS&RP Committee