

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

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

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

Members Absent: Sara Hepburn, Danielle Strauss, Recreation Director; Patrick Jones, Selectman Liaison.*

The minutes of the regular meeting May 8, 2018 and the special meeting May 31, 2018 were approved.

Review of previous meeting's action items

- Jim did not make progress on determining the status of Swampscott's possible participation in the National Grid lawsuit over gas leaks and street tree damage. He will reach out to Sean Fitzgerald to determine what he knows of the history of this issue.
- The Committee prepared two letters for the Board of Selectmen, one supporting the town meeting warrant item on prohibition of distribution of single-use plastic bags and a second supporting the construction of an off-leash dog park behind the cemetery funded by the SPOT organization.

AGENDA ITEMS

Dog Park follow-up:

Richard agreed to serve as liaison from the Committee to a planning group to be set up to move the dog park forward.

Action Item: Tania will let Peter Spellios know that Richard is the Committee representative.

Organic Lawn Management Update:

Sarah reported that the Pure Solutions organic turf management pilot was proceeding on a practice field at Phillips Park and will continue into the Fall. It appears that DPW did not fund the "top dressing" during the pilot which would have been an extra cost. Sarah noted that she is hearing that towns throughout New England, and particularly sea side towns, are banning use of pesticides.

Action Item: Sarah will try to monitor Pure Solutions progress more closely as the pilot continues.

Swampscott Conservancy:

Toni related that meetings of the Conservancy are continuing. A Board of Directors is in place and articles of incorporation have been drafted. An estimate for control of invasives on conservation lands has been solicited, with funding possible through a grant and/or Conservation Commission funds.

Community Garden update:

A table announcing the formation of the Seaside Cooperative Garden of Swampscott was personned at the Swampscott Farmer's Market. Enscribed bricks will be available for purchase as a fundraiser. A final determination of the location of the community garden will be made shortly, with two locations under consideration: land at Bertram House or First Church.

Committee/Department update – Conservation

Toni noted that the 2016 Kleinfelder study on coastal climate change recommended specific changes to zoning bylaws to reduce the hazards of coastal flooding. An upcoming Planning Board meeting will consider what climate adaptation language to add to the bylaws to pass on to the Board of Selectmen. Toni also reported that a closure plan for the Aggregate quarry is inching forward. It was noted that the OS&RPC should have some input into this long range plan.

Committee/Department update – DPW

Tania reported on her recent meeting with Gino Cresta, Jr. Highlights most pertinent to the work of the Committee include:

Work is beginning on the Eisman's Beach path rehabilitation.

The trash surrounding the abandoned car in Harold King Forest will be removed.

The 2018/19 Open Space budgeted funds will be spent on Humphrey Street lights and beach entrances and markers.

Final cost of the Phillips Park playground was \$100,000 donation plus \$75,000 in town funds.

Gino will pursue with potential contractors installing moisture sensors on the sprinklers.

Children's playgrounds at Polisson Park or Johnson Park are probably not worth pursuing because potential repeated storm and high tide damage.

DCR will not take over management of the Swampscott portion of King's Beach and its sea wall unless the town funds the needed repairs, which would likely cost about \$200,000. This amount is not in the current town budget.

Committee/Department update – Historical- White Court pool plan

Richard shared his concern about a pool on the ocean side of the proposed White Court development. It appears from the plan to be surrounded by a overly wide hedge-type planting that would disrupt the impact of the impressive swath of open space angling down to the cliff and water's edge. Jim asked about the status of the public easement to an observation area by the shore, and Richard indicated it is still in place.

Task Force update – Tree Advisory:

Jim reported that the Tree Advisory task force is considering applying for a grant from DCR to develop a tree management plan for the town. The deadline for submission of the application is November 1.

Review of five objectives from Open Space Plan

Action Item:

Add agenda item at the next meeting to discuss Objective 12: Determine whether to expand trash/recycling facilities at all locations or implement "carry in/carry out" program"

Other Business:

Jim reminded the Committee that he would be ending his self-imposed limit of a two-year term as Clerk. A new Clerk will need to be appointed to prepare minutes beginning with the September meeting.

The next OS&RPC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday July 31, 2018. This will be a combined July/August meeting.

*NOTE: This is the first meeting of the OS&RPC since the resignation of Pete Kane, Director of Community Development.