

January 15, 2013 MEETING MINUTES – OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Time: 6:30 pm – 8:10 pm

Location: Swampscott Town Hall, First Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Angela Ippolito, Marc Barden, Richard Smith, Jim Olivetti, Sarah Pruet, Mary Webster

Members Absent: Toni Bandrowicz

Others: Peter Kane (Town Planner), Danielle Strauss (Town Recreation Director), John Picarello & Kevin Donaher (Jackson Park Project), Tania Lillak, Nancy Hughes, Rich Frenkel

1. Approval of December 18, 2012 Meeting Minutes (Item 1. on the Agenda)

The January 15, 2013 meeting of the Open Space & Recreation Planning Committee was called to order at 6:37 pm. Mary moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting; the motion was seconded by Jim and unanimously approved.

2. Jackson Park Playground Project (Item 2. on the Agenda)

Kevin Donaher and John Picarello gave an update on the Jackson Park Playground area. The Jackson Park Playground Project is a 501(c)3 organization, thus all donations are tax-deductible. They have helped in the removal of 134 tons of metal from the town resulting in \$17,410 to fund the project. To date they have raised \$136,000; have \$120,000 of expenses and are in need of approximately \$60,000 to finish the project. It will cost \$43,000 to complete the ground work and grading of the land. The installation of the play structures was put on hold when ledge was discovered. Continuing to install the equipment would result in unlevel playing, walking, and drainage areas. The idea of this project is to not only make play and open space for children in the area and town but for adults as well; a place for people to sit on benches alongside shade and flowering trees and possibly further down the line, the ability to show movies.

Open Space and Jackson Park agreed to work together in order to promote this open space and areas around it. Perhaps stairs installed from play area to parking lot or some safe walking path around the park. Kevin and John asked to come back to our next meeting.

3. Updates from Subcommittees (Item 3. on the Agenda)

Peter handed out updated Inventory List and draft of the report (content from the subcommittees). It was decided to not review the draft report this evening but rather committee members take them home, read through them, make notes, email Leads of subcommittees with comments/question/edits. After the Lead has reviewed and clarified anything necessary s/he may then forward said email to Pete to update the draft report.

Other points to think about:

- Add as much detail as you think may be necessary including trends for example, to guide the reader to better understand what our goal/s may be for that particular piece of open space or for open space that could be affected by such trends and/or changes that may or even could possibly be imminent. Aggregate Industries for example has already started planning their shutdown 60+ years

away; we should consider what changes/impact this will have on Harold King Forest or other areas bordering the quarry.

- Have other town open space plans in front of you while reviewing, for reference; this is not to say another plan is better than what we are creating, just a basis for comparison
- When reviewing what you have compiled, obtain sources if you have not already
- If you think of Resource Protection, Community, and Management Needs while reviewing the reports be sure to jot those down; we will try to come up with common themes to help guide in goals and objectives
- If there are committees/groups you think should be contacted for more clarity, check out the town's website or contact Pete for contact info
- Let Pete know if you need photographs for portions of your report, or if you have photographs, email them to Pete and he'll include

With this information we will then focus on formulating a synopsis/overview of the Plan which we can share with other committees. We will hold a public meeting as early as April (not sooner) which will be informational on the Committee's action plan including its inventory, goals, objectives and priorities; perhaps a follow up public meeting would be geared more toward feedback. Angela will make contact with Joe Markarian to be put on the agenda for Town Meeting to talk about our progress.

Nancy Hughes, a realtor in town, spoke about draws to the town – schools and train for commuting to Boston. Once here she presents them with a map of where beaches are for example. We could share information regarding the available open space in the town such as accessibility to beaches and parks.

Rich Frenkel stopped in to talk about Harold King Forest. Tania had contacted Rich regarding the Forest and he and Tania had walked through it recently. He pointed out that some areas will forever be tough terrain. Mid way through the Forest it would be possible to make a circular trail, creating a longer path and one which could detour back the same way one headed in to the Forest. There may be ways to connect to Salem's Forest although a few obstacles along the way.

Recommendations brought up for 5 year plan were:

- creating a map of all open space and show how to get there (walking map possibly)
- Richard brought up the impact rising sea levels will have on our open space. Pete talked about the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan from MAPC which should come out in 2013/2014. A goal could be to review this plan once it is available and determine what pieces of open space will/could be affected.

Tania and Nancy were asked if they would like to review the Subcommittee reports; feedback they have will be useful as well.

Move to adjourn was made by Angela at 8:10 pm, Mary and Richard seconded, unanimously approved.

Next meeting is February 12, 2013 at 6:30 pm.

Minutes by Mary Webster