

**February 12, 2013 MEETING MINUTES – OPEN SPACE & RECREATION
PLAN COMMITTEE**

Time: 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Swampscott Town Hall, Second Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Toni Bandrowicz, Angela Ippolito, Marc Barden, Richard Smith, Jim Olivetti, Sarah Pruett, and Mary Webster,

Members Absent:

Others: Peter Kane (Town Planner), Danielle Strauss (Town Recreation Director), Tania Lillak, Kevin Donaher and Karen Donaher, and Nancy Hughes.

1. Approval of January 15, 2013 Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the February 12, 2013 Open Space & Recreation Planning Committee was called to order at 6:37 pm. Mary moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting (January 15, 2013); the motion was seconded by Toni and unanimously approved. Pete handed out the Agenda for the meeting as well as an up-to-date draft of plan (dated today) that includes all the revisions he had received from the subcommittee leads.

2. Update from Kevin Donaher on the Jackson Park Playground Project

Kevin Donaher stated that he plans to go to the Capital Improvements meeting next Monday to seek approval for the \$60,000 needed to finish the Jackson Park Playground project. He noted that there were many children at the park sledding after the recent blizzard. There are also plans to work on the building that is on site. Upper Jackson's total acreage is 5.75 acres, which includes the track and woods; and Lower Jackson's total acreage is 24.04 acres, which includes the school and parking lots. In response to Marc's question about who owned the Upper Jackson property, he said the state did, that it is Art. 97 parkland. It was also noted that Aggregate has easement to parts of the property. With little open space in town, Kevin pointed out that the park is a good resource for the town. He would like to see more of the community come to the park, perhaps there could be events like showing movies in the summer. Marc raised possibility of having Boy Scouts help with building paths, stairs, or other projects; Kevin said that perhaps they could do trail clean-up. It was suggested that Kevin come up with ideas for Boy Scout projects and pass them along to Marc. Angela noted this could be a possible recommendation in the plan.

3. Reports and Upgrades from the Committees

Pete said that he had found a more up-to-date soils map that he will pass along to Sarah for updating of the soils section.

Pete observed that the spelling of certain town areas needs to be made consistent in the plan (e.g., Eisman's Beach, Whale (or Whales) Beach, etc.) Decided that we should tally them up and then decide on a uniform way to spell them in the plan.

There was discussion about need to include information on Swampscott's Scenic Byways designation. Pete said he had met with Bill Steelman about using Swampscott as a pilot for Scenic Byways signage. Angela has information on Scenic Byways to give to Richard.

Toni to talk to Angela about dealing with the differing information on access points to beach. Pete suggested the plan should list the beaches and then explain the means of access, by road or access points.

Angela said that it was important for the plan to explain how the pattern of development in town has led to the loss of open space.

4. Next steps.

Agreed that everyone will read through the entire draft plan and within the next two weeks, provide any comments to the subcommittee leads; if it's just typos or minor edits, comments should be provided to Pete (perhaps with a cc to the subcommittee leads). By the time of the next meeting, everyone should also provide Pete with suggestions for the recommendations section. Pete will be sending a template for recommendations. (It was noted that Tania's suggested edits to the "Analysis of Needs" section did not get included in recent draft.)

Marc suggested another field trip for the committee to visit all the beach access points. Decided to organize such a trip after snow melts.

The plan is to go to the Board of Selectmen in April to provide them with an update and then meet with the different town committees and groups that Open Space Committee needs to approach (including: Harbor Advisory, Beautification, DPW, Historical, Recreation, Conservation, Planning, Athletic, Rails to Trails, Fincom, Capital Improvements, School Committee and Selectmen). Suggested that we set aside two days for the Open Space Committee to make presentations and invite the different groups to attend either session. Marc offered to draft letter invitation.

The public meeting (which could be taped and put on cablevision) would be held thereafter.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm