

April 9, 2013 MEETING MINUTES – OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Time: 6:47 pm – 8:15 pm

Location: Swampscott Town Hall, Second Floor Conference Room

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

Others: Peter Kane (Town Planner)

The meeting of the Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee was called to order at 6:47 pm.

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting (March) was made by Mary, seconded by Marc, and unanimously approved by the Committee. A second motion to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2013 CPA meeting was made by Jim, seconded by Mary, and unanimously approved by the Committee.

There was a short recap by Angela and others of the April 2nd Community Preservation Act (CPA) presentation given by Kathy Roth of the Community Preservation Alliance. The handout that had been available at the meeting (attached) was provided to those members of the Open Space & Rec Plan Committee who did not attend the meeting. It was noted that the turnout at the meeting had been low and that not all the town boards / committees had been present at the meeting. No immediate next steps planned but when it is time to go to Town Meeting with the CPA proposal, Mary said that it should be stressed how, unlike with general taxes, residents can actually see what the money will be used for in town. Mary also observed that a high percent of residents had said they supported the CPA on the initial survey the Committee had conducted in the fall. Noted also that several of the recommendations in the draft Open Space Plan refer to potential CPA monies. Pete said he obtained a copy of the slides Ms. Roth had presented which could be used for a presentation at Town Meeting.

2. Review of Current Draft

Pete handed out the current draft of the Open Space & Recreation Plan, explained that the Committee needed to make further necessary revisions / additions by next Tuesday as he plans to email it at that time to the town boards / committees prior to the informational meetings which will be held on April 29th and 30th. Pete explained how he had broken out the inventory list into public and private lands. Marc questioned if perhaps there should have third category: private lands with future benefits. Decided not to, but also observed that there will be explanation of how private properties are divided up in more detail in the Introduction to the Inventory Section (as of yet unwritten). Toni and Pete had a short exchange on how to develop the Flood Hazard portion of the report based on the Flood Zone map.

The committee then reviewed those sections of the draft that still needed more work (and which are red-lined) and who would be addressing which sections:

- Plan summary, p. 7 (Skip for now)
- Road Repair, p. 22 (Mary will get information from Gino)
- Long Term Development, p. 25 (Pete)
- Water Resources in general, flood control in particular, p. 41 (Toni)
- Removed red-line comments on p. 45 as they were taken care in other sections
- Dredging question will stay in for Harbor Advisory Committee to review
- Scenic Resources & Unique Environments, p. 48 (Jim and Richard will draft then pass to Angela)
- Footnote 53, p. 48 (Toni)
- Introduction to Inventory (Angela)
- Howland Park (Angela)
- Filling in length of beaches or acreage of lands (Pete)
- Description of Process (to date), p. 65 (Mary)
- Summary Resource Protection Needs, p. 67 (Pete)
- Community Needs Summary, p. 67 (Mary)
- Management Needs, p. 67 (Marc)
- Goals, p. 69 (Pete)
- Five Year Plan (Skip for now)
- Local Review, p. 73 (On hold until after draft plan issued)
- References, p. 75 (Pete)

Pete explained that he had met with Mary and Jim and they had grouped the compiled Objectives the Committee members had come up with into six primary Goals.

3. Presentations on April 29 & 30

In response to a question about the recent briefing with the Selectmen, Pete and Angela noted that it was short, that they had only provided a status report of the Committee's work, and that they informed them of the upcoming meetings with the town boards / committees on April 29 and 30th.

Regarding the briefings on April 29 and 30th, Pete plans to email the draft plans next Tuesday. Sarah will make phone calls next week to the board / committee chairs. Pete will make calls to the last six town departments listed on p. 11 of the draft Open Space Plan. Noted that there is no need to call the Historical Commission, Planning Board, Rail Trail Implementation Committee, or Recreation Commission as representatives are also on the Open Space & Rec Plan Committee. Phone calls will remind the chair of each group of the invitation they had previously received by letter in mid-March to attend one of the two presentations on April 29 and 30th, that they will be receiving the draft plan by Tuesday, that they should pass it to the other members of the group, stressing the need for

the group to review the draft plan both because of the important role the group plays, as well as the fact that the group will be responsible for some of the recommended actions in the Plan. Angela provided Sarah with a copy of the mid-March letter for her reference.

Plan is to use the same briefing material as was used for the recent Selectman's meeting (omitting the need to brief town boards), but expanded with some additional slides/information. Discussed that, while focus is on the draft plan's recommendations, especially those pertinent to each group, it must also be emphasized to each group that they read and comment on the underlying text in the plan as well. For the meeting, Pete will have a few copies of the draft plan (though each group will have already received it by email). He will also have copies of the recommendation section of the plan to pass out.

For these informational meetings, Marc suggested running through the presentation slides quickly, then focusing on the recommendations and what each group's responsibilities will be, noting that we need input on the recommendations proposed as well as any additional items to add to the recommendations. Jim noted that we should also stress the importance of the plan for town funding opportunities.

4. Other Upcoming Events/Meetings

After the meetings on April 29th and 30th, the town boards / committees will be given two weeks in which to provide comments. The next step will then be the public forum. After discussion, it was decided that the date for the public forum will be June 6th at 6:30 at the High School. Pete will make the arrangements. There will be another two week period for comment after the public forum, and then the goal will be to get the draft plan to the state in June.

April 21st will be the Committee's "field trip" to view certain open spaces in town and their access points. Marc is coordinating and will provide more information by email. Pete will make sure the notice of the trip posted for the public.

May 6th is the Town Meeting. Angela will provide a short status report at the Town Meeting. Mary will draft a short handout for Angela to provide at the meeting regarding date for public forum. Need to work out further methods of notice for the public meeting (The Reporter, Patch, TV, email, etc.).

Toni moved to adjourn at 8:15p. Mary seconded, unanimously approved.

Preserving Swampscott with the Community Preservation Act



WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT (CPA)? The CPA enables cities and towns in Massachusetts to create a local dedicated fund for open space, historic preservation, community housing, and outdoor recreation projects. Cities and towns that adopt the act also receive funds from the statewide Community Preservation Trust Fund each year to help fund these projects.

HOW IS CPA FUNDING GENERATED? CPA funds are generated through two sources: a surcharge of up to 3 percent on property tax bills, and an annual disbursement from the statewide Community Preservation Trust Fund, which distributes funds each October to communities that have adopted CPA. The Trust Fund's revenues are derived from fees collected at the Registry of Deeds, and from state budget surplus funds. Because Swampscott has not adopted CPA, it has not been receiving these annual funds.

WHAT PROJECTS CAN CPA FUNDS SUPPORT? Each fiscal year, CPA communities must spend, or set aside for future spending, the following share of their annual CPA revenues on three core areas:

- 10 percent for open space and recreation
- 10 percent for historic resources
- 10 percent for community housing

The remaining 70 percent of the revenues may be spent or reserved for future projects in any of these three programmatic areas. CPA funds may never be directed to the general town fund; they may only be spent on the CPA core areas of open space, historic preservation, community housing, and outdoor recreation.

CPA IN SWAMPSCOTT COULD PROVIDE FUNDING TO:

- Restore and preserve historic town halls, documents, churches, libraries and other structures
- Create new (or restore run-down) ball fields, playgrounds, and trails for walking and biking
- Preserve land to protect drinking water, local agriculture and wildlife habitat
- Develop a housing plan to determine the housing needs of local residents and then use CPA to address those needs (i.e., support housing for seniors; rehabilitate old apartments to create condos to serve young families or small households)
- Leverage additional dollars from state, federal, and foundation grants

YOU DECIDE HOW CPA FUNDS ARE SPENT!

After adopting CPA, municipalities must establish a local Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to review proposals for local CPA-funded projects, and recommend projects to the local legislative body (Town Meeting or the City Council) for approval. All CPA projects must be approved by Swampscott's legislative body (Town Meeting) to receive CPA funds.

CPA communities exercise local control over their CPA budget. With input from residents and community boards and committees, they determine what types of CPA projects will most benefit the community each year.

For more information, visit www.communitypreservation.org

HOW MUCH WOULD CPA COST THE AVERAGE SWAMPSCOTT HOMEOWNER?

Swampscott residents will vote on which level of CPA surcharge to pay, up to 3%, on their local property tax bills, with the option of exempting the first \$100,000 of taxable value of residential and/or commercial and industrial real estate. The town may also choose to exempt low-income homeowners and low- and moderate-income senior homeowners from the surcharge.

Yearly Cost to an Average Homeowner in Swampscott (Based on FY 2013 data)				
CPA Surcharge Level	1%	1.5%	2%	3%
Without any exemptions	\$85	\$128	\$171	\$256
First \$100,000 of residential property value exempted	\$67	\$100	\$133	\$200

HOW MUCH WOULD CPA GENERATE FOR SWAMPSCOTT?

With a 1% surcharge, and the exemption for the first \$100,000 of residential property value, Swampscott would generate approximately \$328,686 annually. It is important to note that this figure does not include revenue that Swampscott would receive annually from the state CPA Trust Fund, which would be in addition to the local CPA revenue raised. Below is a chart showing estimated **locally raised** CPA revenues under a range of adoption scenarios, based on FY 2013 data:

Projected Yearly CPA Revenue for Swampscott (does not include state matching funds!)				
CPA Surcharge Level	1%	1.5%	2%	3%
Without any exemptions	\$422,170	\$633,255	\$844,340	\$1,266,510
First \$100,000 of residential property value exempted	\$328,686	\$493,029	\$657,372	\$986,058



155 cities and towns have adopted the CPA, including Beverly, Manchester, Middleton, Nahant, Peabody, and Salem.



Photos in this flier are of projects completed with CPA funding in communities across the state.