

**April 30, 2013 MEETING MINUTES – OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN
COMMITTEE PRESENTATION TO TOWN BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

Time: 7:00-8:30 pm

Location: Swampscott High School

Members Present: Richard Smith, Jim Olivetti, Angela Ippolito, and Sarah Pruett

Members Absent: Toni Bandrowicz & Marc Barden

Others: Pete Kane (Town Planner)

See attached list for Town Committees/Boards present at meeting.

Presentation was made by Angela Ippolito and Pete Kane. Angela opened the meeting giving background information on the purpose of the OS&RP Committee and the Town's need to revise the existing Open Space plan as well as what the Committee has accomplished to date. She noted that, after doing extensive research, the Committee had developed a list of Goals, out of which came specific Recommendations and a list of Town Committees/Boards affected by the recommendations. Angela used a power point presentation (*attached*) to go over specifics, including the timeline for completion of the revised plan.

Angela requested that the Town Committees and Boards review the entire plan, to see if corrections were needed or if anything else should be added. It was noted that the Committees and Boards have two weeks, until May 14th, in which to provide formal comments on the draft plan which should be forwarded by the Committee / Board Chairs.

Angela then went through the six main goals (*see attached power point*). She then opened the meeting to questions and comments for us to explore.

- Open Space survey - Questions on any demographic on who drives (47%) to open spaces, 47% also walk. May not be a distance issue but a physical issue. The survey did not ask for specifics.
- Green corridor network - Tom Younger asked about the linking of the green corridor with Marblehead and Salem, i.e. possibly Quarry, The Rail Trail, and Essex Scenic Byway connecting Lynn to Swampscott along Kings Beach
- Seaweed on the Beaches - Cinder McNerney asked about how this could be handled/treated. HWAC has talked about the rake but at this point there is nothing to do with the debris. Peter McNerney talked about a process of organically processing it and then that would be sprinkled on golf courses. Nahant has it deposited close to the beach and then it is picked up to be disposed of, perhaps we could join with Nahant
- Land behind pump station is worth approximately \$50K and town should think of purchasing; half the property is wetlands so it is conservation, other piece could

be an easement or foot path or even dog park (Gino Cresta)

- Soccer field at Upper Jackson has 100 year lease with Aggregate Industries but Aggregate will be long gone before then as they have only a 75 year life span (Harbor Master). Should we look for right of first refusal from Aggregate?
- Girl Scout Lodge, to what extent can the town do something with that property? What can it be used for? (Gino Cresta)
- Tedesco, should it be open for winter recreation? (Cinder McNerney). Our committee reviewed this and we were told no winter activities due to liabilities.
- Train Depot is on warrant to authorize the BoS to purchase the building and the 4 parking spaces in front of the building for \$50K. The next article on the warrant is to have the BoS lease the building with the hope that someone would come in and renovate it first. The property needs to be rezoned to a B1 as the other properties in the same area.
- Are the foot paths behind Philips Park and the 2 foot paths to Puritan Road considered part of Puritan Road?
- Marian Court pays no tax for its lifetime. Town has right of first refusal. It is registered as a Chapter 61B which means it is for recreational use that preserves open space, as is Tedesco. (Cinder McNerney)
- Add to Goal #6 the raking of Fisherman's Beach.

Again, the groups were invited to review and comment on the draft Open Space Plan and provide other recommendations which the Open Space Committee would consider.

Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan

Developing a 2013-2018 outlook



WHAT IS AN OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN?

- ⇒ Open Space and Recreation Plans (OS&RPs) allow communities to look at its entire open space infrastructure and cohesively determine the proper maintenance and enhancements of these assets.
- ⇒ Open space is a significant element in the character and quality of life for a community.

Open space — *noun*

conservation land, forested land, recreation land, agricultural land, corridor parks, small parks, green buffers along roadways

BENEFITS OF AN OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN

- ⇒ OS&RPs provide a means for the protection of the “green infrastructure” of a community.
- ⇒ Community is supplied with an outline of priorities to be considered for capital improvements.
- ⇒ Aside from quality of life impacts, open space protection and maintenance also provides economic benefits.
- ⇒ An OS&RP can also assist Swampscott in taking part in the Commonwealth’s Greenway Vision (interconnecting parks and green space throughout the state).
- ⇒ Swampscott will be eligible for a number of open space and park grants to aid in the maintenance and creation of these spaces (Self-Help, Urban Self-Help, Land and Water Conservation Funds, etc.).

HISTORY OF OPEN SPACE PLANNING IN SWAMPSCOTT

1970s

1970

The “Swampscott Environment: Now or Never” plan approved.

Plan detailed the conservation needs and requirements for the Town.

1980s

1983

First official open space & recreation plan for Swampscott approved — “Swampscott Open Space and Recreation Master Plan”.

Plan followed Massachusetts guidelines at that time.

1990s

2000s

2000s

Attempts made to update the “Swampscott Open Space and Recreation Master Plan” to bring it up to date and in line with current state guidelines.

Update never completed or approved.

2010s

2012

The Planning Board performs a town-wide survey.

Results show significant support and concern regarding open space and recreation from residents.

WHAT WE'VE COMPLETED

- ⇒ Review of 1983 Open Space and Recreation Master Plan
- ⇒ Identifying elements to update as well as significant new pieces required under current rules
- ⇒ Research
 - ⇒ Reviewing other studies in past 20+ years relating to open space and recreation areas in Town
 - ⇒ Interviews with community members and experts
 - ⇒ Community Survey
- ⇒ ROUGH DRAFT OF PLAN

Committee members include: Angela Ippolito, Mary Webster, Toni Bandrowicz, Marc Barden, Jim Olivetti, Sarah Pruett, and Richard Smith; with Town employees Danielle Strauss & Pete Kane

FINAL STEPS TO COMPLETION



COMMUNITY
FORUM

Public presentation
followed by 2-week
comment period

Board of Selectmen
& Planning Board

Review & Approval

&

Metropolitan Area
Planning Council

Review

Division of
Conservation Services

Review & Approval

COMPLETE

Dependent on
DCS timing

WHAT WE NEED TONIGHT

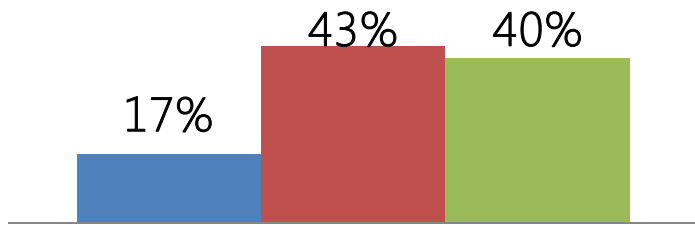
Opportunity for Town boards, committees and departments to weigh in on the new Open Space & Recreation Plan

- 1) Review the **entire** plan
- 2) Examine the Goals & Objectives and how they apply to your board, committee, or department
- 3) Evaluate whether there are any missing, incorrect or additional research elements of Goals/Objectives that should be included

Provide your formal comments (from your board, committee, department) by Tuesday, May 14th

⇒ TWO WEEK COMMENT PERIOD

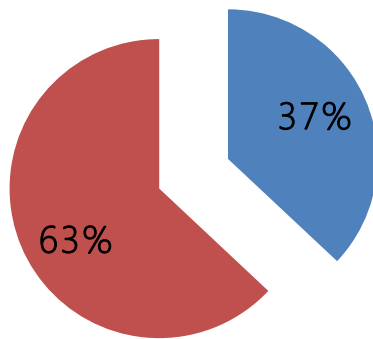
COMMUNITY SURVEY — FALL 2012



ENOUGH CONSERVATION LAND
IN SWAMPSCOTT?

■ YES ■ NO ■ UNSURE

ENOUGH RECREATION
AREAS IN SWAMPSCOTT?

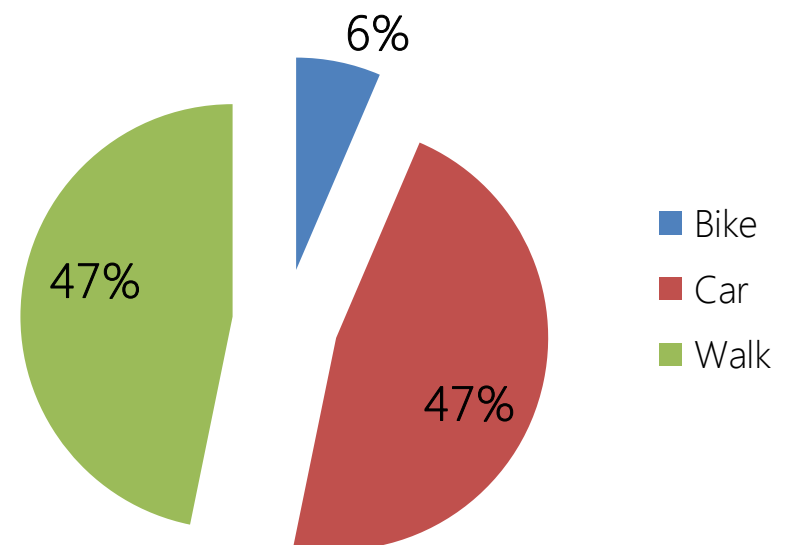


■ YES ■ NO

TOP FIVE VISITED PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

- 1) Town Hall Lawn
- 2) Fisherman's Beach
- 3) Phillips Beach
- 4) King's Beach
- 5) Linscott Park

TRANSPORTATION METHODS USED TO GET TO OPEN SPACES



CURRENT GOALS

- 1) Establish A Green Corridor Network
- 2) Maintain Open Spaces & Recreation Facilities
- 3) Improve Public Access & Awareness
- 4) Expand & Improve Open Spaces & Recreation Facilities To Meet Needs
- 5) Preserve The Scenic Character Of The Town
- 6) Strengthen Environmental Protection

*Each goal has a number of **actions** and **objectives** that have been compiled to help attain the goal.*

GOAL #1

Establish A Green Corridor Network

OVERVIEW

The various open space and recreation fields are best served when they are easily connected. This goal envisions a green network so that recreational walkers and bicyclists, both townspeople and tourists, can enjoy green connectors to open spaces, recreation facilities, beaches and rail transit. Such a network will also encourage wildlife passage through the region.

IDENTIFIED RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

- ⇒ Conservation Commission
- ⇒ Open Space Committee
- ⇒ Rail-Trail Implementation Committee

GOAL #2

Maintain Open Spaces & Recreation Facilities

OVERVIEW

Townpeople have expressed loud and clear a desire for cleaner, safer, better-maintained existing parks, playgrounds, sports fields and beaches. In supporting this goal, Swampscott mirrors residents in the northeast region as a whole, as revealed in the survey "Massachusetts Outdoors 2006: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan", in which maintaining existing facilities scored highest of any funding priority. Establishing site specific plans for maintenance, safety and replacement is key to achieving this goal.

IDENTIFIED RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

- ⇒ Andrews Chapel Committee
- ⇒ Beautification Committee
- ⇒ Board of Health
- ⇒ Board of Selectmen
- ⇒ Conservation Commission
- ⇒ DPW
- ⇒ Harbor & Waterfront Advisory Committee
- ⇒ PTAs
- ⇒ School Committee
- ⇒ Veterans Affairs Committee

GOAL #3

Improve Public Access & Awareness

OVERVIEW

The open space and recreational facilities in Swampscott can meet their fullest potential if they are accessible and known about by residents. Through the public surveys, it was found that many residents are unaware of many of the features located within the community. During site visits, the Committee also found that many locations are unmarked or inaccessible.

IDENTIFIED RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

- ⇒ Beautification Committee
- ⇒ Board of Selectmen
- ⇒ Conservation Commission
- ⇒ Disability Commission
- ⇒ DPW
- ⇒ Harbor & Waterfront Advisory Committee
- ⇒ Historical Commission
- ⇒ Open Space Committee
- ⇒ School Committee

GOAL #4

Expand & Improve Open Spaces & Recreation Facilities To Meet Needs

OVERVIEW

While there are a number of excellent open space and recreation areas available, there can always be improvement. The research during this planning process found that amenities were lacking or inconsistent between various open space areas. Likewise, some areas are very small or limited in the type of activity that can be enjoyed.

IDENTIFIED RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

- ⇒ Athletic Field Committee
- ⇒ Beautification Committee
- ⇒ Board of Selectmen
- ⇒ Conservation Commission
- ⇒ Council on Aging
- ⇒ DPW
- ⇒ Harbor & Waterfront Advisory Committee
- ⇒ Open Space Committee
- ⇒ Planning Department
- ⇒ Recreation Commission
- ⇒ School Committee

GOAL #5

Preserve the Scenic Character of the Town

OVERVIEW

The majority of Swampscott residents value the small scale seaside town atmosphere in which they live, and want to preserve the quality of life this atmosphere affords. Overall appearance and visual character of the town will be improved through public shade tree planting and other greenscape improvements. To further support this goal, open space and recreation needs will be incorporated into land use planning and zoning, and protections for historically-significant sites will be put in place.

IDENTIFIED RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

⇒ Beautification Committee

⇒ Conservation Commission

⇒ DPW

⇒ Historical Commission

⇒ Historical Society

⇒ Open Space Committee

⇒ Planning Department

⇒ Recreation Department

GOAL #6

Strengthen Environmental Protection

OVERVIEW

As is true in most communities, Swampscott has experienced and continues to experience environmental problems both man-made and natural. The open space and recreational facilities need to take these elements into consideration and should provide for ways to minimize and eliminate these problems as best as possible.

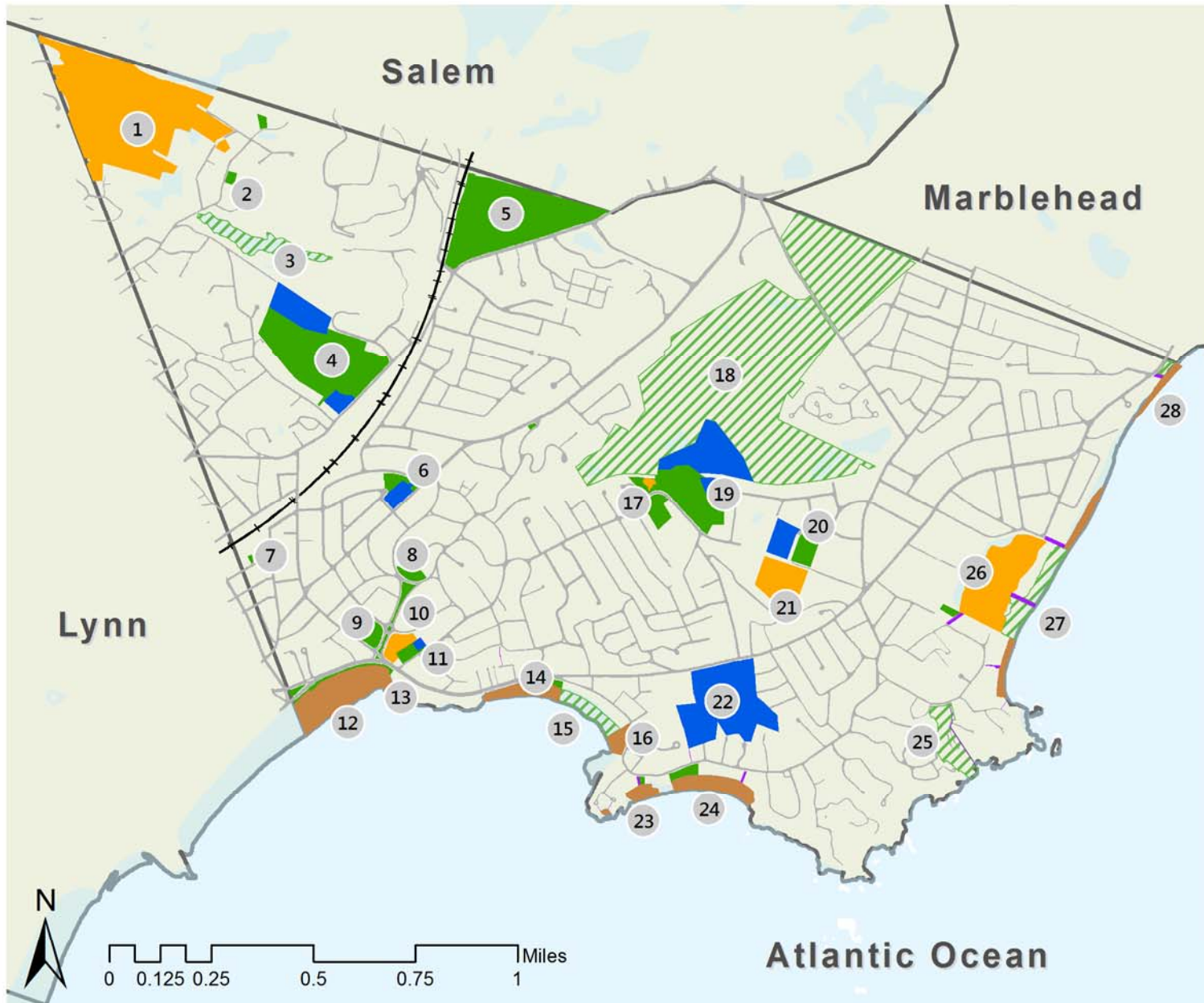
IDENTIFIED RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

- ⇒ Athletic Field Committee
- ⇒ Board of Health
- ⇒ Board of Selectmen
- ⇒ Building Department
- ⇒ Conservation Commission
- ⇒ DPW
- ⇒ Finance Committee
- ⇒ Harbor & Waterfront Advisory Committee
- ⇒ Open Space Committee
- ⇒ Planning Department



Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan 2013

MAP 11 - OPEN SPACE INVENTORY



LEGEND

Open Space - Public

- Beach
- Conservation Area
- Park, Playground, Other
- Recreation Area
- Right-of-Way

Open Space - Private

- Areas
 - 1 - Harold A. King Forest
 - 2 - Windsor Park
 - 3 - Foster Pond
 - 4 - Jackson Park
 - 5 - Swampscott Cemetery
 - 6 - Abbott Park
 - 7 - Superior Street Playground
 - 8 - Howland Park
 - 9 - Town Hall Lawn
 - 10 - Monument Square & Mall
 - 11 - Linscott Park & Hadley School Recreation
 - 12 - King's Beach
 - 13 - Driscoll Park
 - 14 - Chaisson Park
 - 15 - Fisherman's Beach
 - 16 - Sandy Beach
 - 17 - Muskrat Pond
 - 18 - Tedesco Country Club
 - 19 - Middle School Recreation
 - 20 - Stanley School Recreation
 - 21 - Charles M. Ewing Woods
 - 22 - Phillips Park
 - 23 - Polisson Park & Whale's Beach
 - 24 - Johnson Park & Eiseman's Beach
 - 25 - Blythswood
 - 26 - Palmer Pond
 - 27 - Phillips Beach
 - 28 - Beach Bluff Park & Preston Beach
- DATA SOURCE
Swampscott GIS & MassGIS



Swampscott Open Space & Recreation Plan 2013

MAP 12 - ACTION PLAN

