

May 21, 2013 MEETING MINUTES – OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

Time: 6:40 pm – 9:00 pm

Location:

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

Members Absent: Richard Smith

Others: Danielle Strauss (Town Recreation Director), Pete Kane (Town Planner), John Callahan, and Tania Lillak

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The meeting of the May 21, 2013 Open Space & Recreation Planning Committee (OS&RPC) was called to order at 6:40 pm. With certain corrections noted by the Committee, the minutes from the April 9, 2013 meeting and from the April 29 and 30, 2013 presentations to the Town Boards and Committees were unanimously approved. The April 21, 2013 meeting minutes (from the OS&RPC field trip) were not voted on pending distribution of a final draft of the minutes.

2. Review of Compiled Board and Department Comments on Draft Open Space Plan

After a preliminary discussion about the history of the town's attempt to purchase the land behind the pump station /Bertram House and Philips Beach, the Committee proceeded to review the compiled comments from the Town Boards and Committees on the draft Open Space Plan.

First discussed were the comments by the Athletic Field Study Committee (AFSC) and the Recreation Commission and Recreation Department. The discussion focused on the facts underlying the conclusion that the playing fields need to be restored. Agreed that the Open Space Plan should not recommend a specific restoration method, such as installation of artificial turf fields, but a general recommendation that the condition of the fields urgently need to be addressed. The text of the report can, however, include the suggestions of Athletic Field Study Committee and Recreation Commission and Recreation Department favoring use of artificial turf.

It was also noted that while there was no backup information supporting AFSC's suggestion to include the Field Hose in the "Rehab. Building" line item, Marc noted that he could add it in the evaluation of needs section.

Board of Health Comments

Agreed that Toni would work with Pete on incorporating the comments provided by the Board of Health.

Board of Selectman

Committee agreed not to look at the suggestion to remove parking off Martin's Way, and that the comment regarding referencing Essex Heritage Scenic Byway had already been addressed in the plan. Agreed to add as action items the Board's other suggestions: possible public access

options for winter months at Tedesco Country Club, obtaining a conservation restriction at the Club, and acquiring by title or easement additional access at Phillips Beach.

Cultural Council

The Cultural Council provided additional supporting information that can be added to the plan, in particular, the funding for events to the section on activities on the Town Hall lawn.

Harbor & Waterfront Advisory Committee

Agreed to spell out in the plan what rights the public has to access privately owned beaches (i.e., between high and low water marks).

Health Dept.

Agreed to add the Town's need for a dog park, and to include background supporting information in the description of Philips Park as well as a specific recommendation. The Committee believes that the water quality issues raised by the Health Dept. are already included in the plan.

Historical Commission

The Committee went through each of the suggested places the Historic Commission requested being added as a Responsible Party and concluded that it should be added in an "advisory" capacity for historic places (such as Olmsted District) for the development of guidelines and the rehabilitation of buildings/maintenance plan. Agreed to add the Commission to the listed Monument Ave. items and also to note in the text of the plan the importance of maintaining the Monument Ave. area consistent with Olmsted's vision. Also agreed to add the Commission to the Marion Court and historically appropriate landscape treatment for Linscott Park and Town Hall lawn. The OS&RPC did not agree to add the Commission to the signage, adoption of Community Preservation Act or boardwalk items because Responsible Parties have already been identified for those items.

Rail to Trail

Agreed to add supporting reasons supplied by the Rail to Trail group to the plan in the inventory of lands (future) section.

Renewable Energy Committee

Agreed that the plan should state that it reinforces compliance with the net-neutral requirements of the energy reduction plan approved by the Town.

The remaining items in the Agenda will be taken up at the next meeting. In the interim, Pete will be providing flyers to pass out or post promoting the upcoming community forum on the plan.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm