**Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – September 15, 2015 Minutes**

**Time:** 7:10 PM – 8:25 PM **Location:** Town Hall, Conference Room

**Members Present:** Mary Webster, Richard Smith, Jim Olivetti, Toni Bandrowicz & Sarah Pruett

**Members Absent:** Tania Lillak

**Ex-Officios Present:** Recreation Director; Danielle Strauss, Town Planner; Pete Kane

**Ex-Officios Absent:** Planning Board Chair; Angela Ippolito

**Guests:** Matt Smith & Trish Malphrus

Mary brought the meeting to order at 7:10 PM. Sarah motioned to accept the, August 11, 2015 minutes. Richard seconded. All were in favor.

Matt Smith, Project Manager for the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, outlined where we are in the Swampscott Master Plan. Key findings with regard to what is important to town residents are:

1. The beaches and coast are most valued. People want better access and amenities.

2. Rail Trail implementation

3. Activate our open spaces with festivals and similar events.

4. Address transportation needs.

The Master Plan will outline who to talk to about what to get things accomplished. Need to know our priorities, be prepared and ready to move when potential open space land becomes available. The CPA could be a source for funding. A citizens’ initiative is the best avenue to pursue in order to put the CPA on the May 2016 Town Meeting agenda. Historic Commission and Open Space will help get it passed. Mary will send Matt a list of OSRPC accomplishments.

Toni sent the Ewing Woods Master Plan to the Police, Selectmen and DPW. She heard back from Naomi Dreeben who supports the signage initiative and community involvement. Toni would like to organize a Friends of the Woods group. The Conservation Area Boundary signs cannot be attached to trees.

Jim has 4 locations for ‘No Dumping’ signs; Harold King parking lot, Phillips Park parking lot, Palmer Pond and 3 signs at Ewing Woods, one at each end of the paper street and one in the middle. Jim will send the request to Jeff Vaughan.

Nothing has been done to improve the path to Eiseman’s Beach.

The Municipal Design Committee beach marker project plan is on line for viewing. There will be another public meeting about the proposed improvements to the beach openings, date tbd.

Sarah will lead a group to mitigate the impact of invasive species in Ewing Woods, Saturday, October 3, at 10 AM. Meet at the church parking lot. Bring clippers & gloves.

The Town is in the process of acquiring the Lexington Circle land. This land will be accessible from the Rail Trail and will be used for passive recreation.

The Rail Trail Committee solicited volunteers through email and have 10 volunteers signed up.

At 8:25 PM, Jim made a motion to adjourn. Danielle seconded. All were in favor.

Our next meeting is October 13, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Pruett, Secretary