

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – March 20, 2017 Minutes

Time: 7:10 PM – 8:30 PM **Location:** Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

Members Present: Tania Lillak, Vice Chair; Jim Olivetti, Clerk; Toni Bandrowicz, Danielle Strauss, Recreation Director, ex officio.

Members Absent: Mary Webster, Chair; Richard Smith, Sara Pruet, Pete Kane, Director of Community Development, ex officio; Angela Ippolito, Planning Board Chair; Patrick Jones, Selectman Liaison.

A quorum was determined based on 4 potential voting members counting Danielle.

The minutes of the February meeting were unanimously approved.

There was a brief followup discussion about involving Sean Fitzpatrick in the activities of the OS&RPC based on his expressed interest in open space issues. Danielle noted that he is very busy in his new position. It was decided to include Sean in the email distribution of the minutes and agenda notices.

Action: Mary will add Sean Fitzpatrick to the email distribution list for the Committee meeting agendas. Jim will include him in the distribution of the draft minutes.

Agenda Items

1. Rail Trail update

Danielle shared information from Pete. There will be two public information sessions held in April leading up to the town meeting in May. Committee members are encouraged to attend these meetings and otherwise support the rail trail and the warrant article request for initial funding. There will also be a new web site focused on the rail trail.

2. White Court.

It turns out that there will not be a warrant article on acquiring White Court for the May town meeting. As Pete explained it, the Board of Selectmen already has the right and ability to engage in discussions with the Sisters. The White Court task force will continue its work to develop a business plan and funding strategy.

3. Fields Maintenance.

The plan to move to organic-based maintenance of the grass playing field seems to have stalled.

Action: Tania will reintroduce the topic in discussions with Gino Cresta about how to establish an organic field maintenance program either thru a contractor or utilizing town staff.

4. Land & Water Conservation Grant Program.

Pete, working with support from Danielle and Toni, submitted the grant application by the deadline. The application requests funding to replace playground equipment at both Windsor Avenue Park and Linscott Park.

Action: Pete and Danielle will conduct a site visit with the Grant Program Director next week as part of the application process.

5. Blythswood

A Management Plan is required by the Blythswood conservation restriction. The management plan Toni prepared and the OS&RPC approved has now been reviewed by the town counsel and passed on to the Wilkinsons for their review. There will also be a public comment period. Toni and Jim met with Gino on the establishment and maintenance of the easement access way. He expressed interest in walking the easement with Committee members. The materials used for a path and possible railing or fencing to separate the easement from the rest of the Wilkinsons' land were discussed.

Action: Toni will ask Pete whether or not a survey exists for the easement in order to clearly determine the location of the 10-foot access way.

Action: Toni will research the topic of path materials for ADA accessibility.

6. Harold King Forest.

Received comments from the public on the management plan. The next step is Conservation Commission approval. Eagle Scout Duncan Page will make his presentation for improving the existing trail and building a kiosk at the Conservation Commission April meeting. Toni noted that the entrance to trail needs to be upgraded to mitigate the eroded slope down from the parking lot.

7. Review progress on OS&R Plan.

No review was undertaken as there were too few members in attendance to make significant headway.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2017.