



# TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT

## OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE

ELIHU THOMSON ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
22 MONUMENT AVENUE, SWAMPSCOTT, MA 01907

### MEMBERS

MARY WEBSTER, CHAIR  
TANIA LILLAK, VICE CHAIR  
JIM OLIVETTI, CLERK  
TONI BANDROWICZ  
ANGELA IPPOLITO  
SARAH PRUETT  
RICHARD SMITH

# APRIL 11, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

**Time:** 7:00pm – 8:35 pm  
**Location:** Swampscott Town Hall, Second Floor Conference Room, 22 Monument Avenue  
**Members Present:** Toni Bandrowicz, Tania Lillak, Richard Smith, Mary Webster  
**Members Absent:** Jim Olivetti, Angela Ippolito, Sarah Pruett  
**Others Present:** Pete Kane (Dir. of Community Development), Danielle Strauss (Recreation Director)

Vice Chair Tania Lillak called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM (standing in for Chair Mary Webster while she was on her way).

## MEETING MINUTES

The Committee discussed the minutes from the March 20 meeting.

MOTION : by Toni to approve the March 20 meeting minutes, seconded by Danielle, unanimous.

## RAIL TRAIL – TOWN MEETING VOTE

Pete gave the Committee an update on the rail trail project. Informed the Committee that the Selectmen have sponsored a warrant article for Town Meeting to request \$850,000 for the design and engineering of the path as well as the acquisition of the easement rights (along with legal fees). This is the next step in the process to making the rail trail a reality for Swampscott. He also said that there are now two warrant articles (the warrant articles are the same except for the funding method – one calls for bonding the second one calls for use of free cash).

Pete said that he's asked if a number of Town committees would take a vote (prior to Town Meeting) to support favorable action on the Town Meeting article. It will help provide a greater foundation if committees of different topics show their support.

MOTION : by Toni for the Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee to send a letter of support for the two warrant articles for the rail trail, seconded by Richard, unanimous.

Pete then updated the Committee on recent work of the Rail Trail Implementation Committee (RTIC): there's a new project website (<http://www.swampscottrailtrail.org>), an RTIC Facebook page, and RTIC Twitter account. There will be two informational meetings (April 13 & May 2 – both in the high school).

## ACTIONS

- TONI - will draft letter and distribute to Committee to finalize

## WHITE COURT TASK FORCE

Toni gave an update regarding her meeting (with others) with the Swampscott Foundation. There was mutual interest expressed during the meeting. They discussed whether the Swampscott Foundation could be used as a vehicle for acquiring the property. The Foundation has no money right now. The Foundation suggested that an option might be for someone to hold the property for 12 months, or to lease it for 12 months. That would then provide time secure funding and potentially removing the property from a sale

listing. They also talked about looking at the property taxes that the Sisters pay for White Court. Sean Fitzgerald (Town Administrator) & Naomi Dreeben (Chair of Selectmen) said that the Board of Selectmen can't ask for that kind of money from Town Meeting right now due to other requests and projects underway. The total assessment for the property/building is \$5.8 million but there's a feeling it will sell for less than that. They discussed the possibility of subdividing a portion of the property and selling that to abutting property owners (with possible conservation restriction applied).

Pete then updated the Committee about the Task Force meeting from last week. Three members were at that meeting along with the Town Administrator and Pete. The three Task Force members gave updates about their research (Richard will do site analysis work at the property; Jim has confirmed that someone from the Trust for Public Land Boston office will attend next Task Force meeting, Jim has also discussed the potential of the Marine Center @ NEU Nahant using White Court, Sylvia has spoken with the Events Coordinator at the Peabody Essex Museum who may be interested in space at White Court). Pete has gotten access to the property for Richard's site visit.

## FIELD MAINTENANCE

Tania spoke with DPW Director Gino Cresta about the need for two field maintenance employees (to replace contractor service). Gino hadn't included it in the budget request but said it could still be amended. Tania then spoke with Finance Committee Chair Marzie Galazka to say that the OSRPC was in support of the funding request. FinCom is meeting with Gino on April 19<sup>th</sup> and asked if Tania could attend but she'll be out of town. Danielle suggested that someone from the Field Advisory Committee should be there. Tania asked if someone from OSRPC could attend that April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. She started a letter outline of support for these new positions. She suggested the committee member would just need to submit the letter during the meeting. Mary thought she could come over to the meeting (she has another meeting that night). Danielle suggested she go to the meeting with someone from the Field Advisory Committee. During the meeting, Danielle was able to confirm that Josh Field (from FAC) would be able to join.

### ACTIONS

- TANIA – will send along draft letter
- TONI – will finalize letter
- MARY – will attend the 4/19 meeting and present the letter

## LAND & WATER CONSERVATION GRANT

Pete gave an update on the application process. Pete and Danielle met with Melissa Cryan from the grant program on March 30 to visit to the sites – the playgrounds at Linscott Park and Windsor Avenue Park. They discussed with Melissa the proposed playground updates at each site, the sites' proximity to nearby playgrounds and public transit, and title deeds for each property. Pete's provided all follow up information that Melissa requested for the application except for the deed documentation for Windsor Avenue Park. That'll require going through the physical documents at the Registry of Deeds in Salem. Melissa had shared with Pete and Danielle that they received applications with a total request for monies over four times what the grant budget includes. The award announcement isn't expected to come out until about June/July.

Danielle said that even if we don't get the grant, we should still be able to do Linscott Park. The Capital Improvement Committee seems in favor of doing park improvements. They're in support of the new surfacing for Abbott Park.

## BLYTHSWOOD MANAGEMENT PLAN

Toni said there's a draft management plan. It's been reviewed by Counsel. Counsel has sent it to the Wilkinson's attorney but haven't heard back from them yet. Toni noted it should go to various Town bodies (DPW, Police, etc). Pete also spoke with Charlie Wilkinson who has not taken the "Private Property" sign off the front gate. The Committee discussed the need to properly sign it so people stay on the path and not go on the private property.

## ACTIONS

- TONI – will speak with Gino about the path and construction of it
- TONI – will also speak with ConCom about the path needs

## HAROLD KING FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Toni and Jim spoke with Gino about making signs for Harold King Forest and Ewing Woods. It'll cost about \$500 per sign. The public comment period on the plan will close this month. Toni's received some comments. ConCom meets next week and will vote on the final plan.

A Boy Scout is attending the ConCom meeting to discuss his plans for trail blazing and an information sign.

## OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN – ACTION ITEM REVIEW

Committee decided that since a number of members weren't in attendance, that they would wait to review the plan items until the next meeting. The group suggested that next review should be done in sections (based on "year").

## NEXT MEETING

Committee discussed options for the May meeting. Mary can't make the standard second Tuesday. There was no consensus – may keep the date for May 9. Will depend on when the White Court Task Force meeting is scheduled to meet next.

## ACTIONS

- PETE – will confirm next White Court Task Force meeting and inform Mary
- MARY – will finalize next meeting date with rest of OSRPC

Meeting adjourned at 8:35p.

Pete Kane  
Director of Community Development