

## Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee Meeting – June 13, 2017 Minutes

**Time:** 7:15 PM – 9:00 PM   **Location:** Town Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

**Members Present:** Mary Webster, Chair; Tania Lillak, Vice Chair; Richard Smith, Toni Bandrowicz, Angela Ippolito, Planning Board Chair; Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator

**Members Absent:** Jim Olivetti, Sara Pruet, Pete Kane, Director of Community Development; and Patrick Jones, Selectman Liaison.

A quorum was determined to be present and the meeting opened at 7:15 pm.

The minutes of the April 11, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved.

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator, was greeted by the members of the OS&RP Committee; he expressed his support of the OS&RP, especially its joining together of conservation and recreation goals. To better appreciate the Town, and its open space issues, he suggested that the Committee occasionally “get out of the meeting room” and walk around the town. He also recommended that, given the Town’s lack of open space, the OS&RP identify upfront those properties that the Town may potentially want to acquire for the purpose of expanding open space (e.g., the train station area was mentioned). The Town could seek a right of first refusal for purchasing such properties should they become available in the future. Sean later suggested that OS&RP Committee review its objectives, dividing it into those requiring capital investments and those that were more procedural in nature, so that a prioritized capital improvement plan could be formulated; this plan could then be implemented over a period of time, spacing out the requests for capital funding.

Action Item – When the Committee next meets it plans to go over the OS&RP projects and can, at that time, also develop a prioritized list of capital improvement.

Tania Lillak then provided a summary of her discussions with Gino Cresta on some specific activities involving the DPW:

- Of the \$115K in the OS&RP budget for the 2017/2018 fiscal year, \$50K will be spent on the beach entrances and \$65K will be spent on decorative street lights for Monument Avenue. The \$50K is coming from the town budget; a Coastal Zone Management grant is being used for engineering and design.

Action Item: OS&RP Committee had previously developed a list of projects for funding out of the budget. Agreed that the Committee should check the list and then plan to apply for funding early in process for specific projects. Mary will find the list and recirculate.

-In response to concerns over monument proliferation, Gino informed Tania that decisions on monument acceptance and placement are in the hands of the Selectmen.

Action Item: Create a policy for acceptance of monuments and present it to Selectmen for their use. It was noted that this ties in with the Historic District and so, will need to check the bylaws. Not clear who would be responsible for drafting such a policy, but Richard will act as liaison for this item.

-Regarding tree replacement, Gino informed Tania that 3 new trees will be planted in front of the Hawthorne and a new tree had been planted across from the bakery. He noted that a tree had

been taken down on Thomas Street. The owners needed it trimmed for insurance purposes and when Babe Keating, the arborist, went to trim it, he declared it dead and had to come down. However, Gino questioned whether it was in fact dead, but said that when an arborist informs him that a tree needs to come down, the DPW has to follow his advice.

Action Item: It was unanimously voted that a Tree Advisory Task Force be formed. Mary was going to reach out to Gino and we'll check to see if Jim Olivetti would agree to be liaison. It was noted that the tree inventory will provide information on the condition of, and recommendations for, Town trees.

-Howland Park – Gino has implemented the list of “to-do’s” provided by John McLaughlin.

-Gino agreed that the Town doesn't need more memorial benches and he is attempting to steer people to tree donations with a plaque. There is also the ability to donate towards a trash barrel with a plaque (which was already done for one barrel located by Mission-on-the-Bay).

-Kings Beach seawall needs an estimated \$200K in repairs. Discussions continue on having the DCR take over the Swampscott section of the seawall, but the DCR would want the repairs completed first. DCR would also charge \$180K per year in maintenance costs for taking over Kings Beach.

Action Item: Consider inviting DCR to Selectmen meeting, but suggested that meet with legislators first. Sean will be coordinating.

- No dumping signs will be posted at Harold King Forest; Toni will talk to Gino about where to post them at Ewing Woods.

-The DPW did make and install new signs for Harold King Forest and Ewing Woods with funding provided by the Conservation Commission. Toni Bandrowicz noted that there are also management plans for Ewing and Harold King in place now, and the plan for the Blythswood Easement is being reviewed by the owner's attorney. She will check with Pete on status of review. She also noted that a boy scout will be repairing the trail in Harold King and building an informational kiosk.

-Trash bags continue to be a major expense; Gino will break down the costs in the DPW budget so it can be seen where money is being expended.

-Pesticides were applied to the lawn at Kings Beach and the middle strip of the Monument by EZ Landscaping. While some residents are opposed to application of chemicals, other complain if lawns are weedy. DPW has an obligation to have the lawns look good. The baseball fields have not been done this year, and DPW will apply what EZ Landscaping recommends.

Action Item: Why is EZ Landscaping involved and not Leahy?

-Gino will ask EZ Landscaping about the cost of installing moisture sensors for sprinkler systems.

-The boy scouts will be cleaning up Windsor Park soon and DPW plans to install new playground equipment next year.

-Phillips and Abbott parks – The improvements at Abbott Park will be for wheelchair use (installation of a rubberized surface). There is a donor for creation of a playground at Phillips Park (to be located in the SW corner of the field).

-The seaweed and trash raked from the beach is hauled away by JRM Hauling and taken to the Cape for \$15K per year. Sean notes that the plan is to rake the beach 3 times a week.

-Playground Maintenance Plans will likely not be under the new Facilities Manager but under DPW.

- Pollution runoff – Streets are being swept to reduce trash and pollutants in drains. Education is needed so that residents don't put things in the storm drains. Sean mentions that there are requirements the Town must meet under its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit.

- Kings Beach storm drain work involves 4 phases, currently in phase 1A. Sewer mains are being replaced on several streets in Town around the Norfolk and Franklin Street areas. After that, the sewer pipes will be relined. Nothing was revealed from the smoke testing, so the thought is that collapsed sewer pipes are leaching. Lynn's sewer work has been stalled as there were some problems with the contractor and a lawsuit ensued.

-Tree Inventory – The second phase of the tree inventory was completed, but not all trees have been inventoried yet. DPW will provide the OS&RP Committee with the summary report of the second phase. Phase 3 will be completed after July 1. Tree hearings have been proceeding with greater ease with the tree inventory report to refer to.

-Aged/ailing street trees – Gino agrees that there should be a Tree Advisory task force (see Action Item above). Gino has been planting a few maples lately, but no oaks.

-Organic lawn program – The budget to hire two new DPW workers has not been approved. Also, the Leahy lawn cutting contract was renewed for one more year (\$68K). Tania asked about the possibility of part time workers instead of full time workers, which Gino was open to, but he had concerns on their commitment to the lawn program. Gino thought that retired workers might be a good fit.

Potential Action item: Include in the next DPW budget developed for late Oct/early Nov.; investigate options for hiring staff this summer.

-Winter salt management – Tania showed Gino photos of Kings Beach Terrace this past February where significant amounts of extra salt were on the road. Gino said that was result of operator error. Tania will contact Gino prior to this coming winter on educating staff on salting smaller roads.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.