

**TOWN OF TEWKSBURY
OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN COMMITTEE
APRIL 18, 2019**

Call the Meeting to Order

Chris Mullins called the meeting to order at 6:35pm in Town Hall. Present at the meeting was Chris Mullins, Bruce Shick, Paige Impink, Karyn Sliva, Eva Durkin and Stefania Gallo.

A. Approval of Minutes: March 21, 2019

There were no minutes available for approval.

B. Final Planning for Events (Introduction to iNaturalist/City Nature Challenge/Earth Day Town Clean-Up)

Mr. Mullins passed around his slide presentation for the iNaturalist event at the Library and asked if anyone had any feedback. He asked if the event would be listed on the Town website. Ms. Impink said it would go on the Town's Facebook and Twitter pages. Ms. Gallo said she requested it be put on the Community Calendar. The group discussed the QR code for the map packets and Ms. Gallo said they should include the QR code with the map packets. The group discussed the logistics for the presentation on Saturday. Ms. Impink said the event is the header in the calendar section of the Town Crier. The group discussed asking other groups and Committees to distribute the Town Clean-Up information to their own contacts/members. Ms. Impink said there are a lot of new names on the Signup Genius. The Shawsheen River Watershed Association is participating and will have 8 people in kayaks collecting trash on the shoreline. Mr. Shick asked if anyone has ever thought of using prisoners to collect trash on town roadways. Ms. Impink said it is competitive to obtain that labor but she will ask Keith Sullivan for the details on it.

Ms. Impink said the Chandler Wellfields, Rogers Park, Long Pond/Rain Gardens and Shawsheen River are on the Signup Genius. Mr. Shick asked if plant material and limbs could be picked up at other locations such as the Overlook and the Launch. Ms. Gallo said the DPW is picking up trash and that effort takes a lot of coordination. Ms. Impink said the DPW will pick up the yellow bags of trash and brown paper lawn bags but other plant material and tree limbs has not been part of the discussion.

Ms. Impink asked if the garbage at the Launch has been picked up. Mr. Shick said volunteers have picked up the garbage bag in the past. Richard Montuori told him if he needs something done to let him know and they'll see if they can get it done; this may be a good test case. Ms. Gallo said she spoke with the Town Manager about having one point of contact, such as a Staff member, for Committee business. She can relay information to him about events so he can be aware and pass the information on to the Board of Selectmen. She doesn't know if the garbage at the Launch is Committee businesses but she can ask him.

Ms. Impink noted that she would be asking volunteers for loose statistics on what type of trash they are picking up on clean-up day. Ms. Durkin asked who should be notified in the event that someone finds a needle. Ms. Impink said the Police Department business line should be notified in that event and they will pick it up. Ms. Impink said she encouraged the people that distribute

the rain barrels to come to the Common on the Earth Day Town Clean-up day as it is a great day for eco-awareness opportunities.

Ms. Gallo said the Town Manager got a call from a resident interested in planting flowers to help bees and asked if the Committee had any ideas on types of flowers and potential locations. Mr. Mullins suggested they visit the New England Wildlife Flower Society website as there is a lot of information on the types of flowers for different locations that help promote bees. Mr. Shick suggested planting them around the benches at Pinnacle trail. Ms. Sliva suggested planting them around the benches at The Pines Cemetery.

C. Prioritization of OSRP Short Term Objectives

Ms. Gallo asked the Committee how they felt about tabling this subject until the next meeting as it was already 7:30pm.

Mr. Shick said he went through the Open Space and Recreation Plan and came up with what he thought was most important:

- Page 110, Section 1.3a- Develop Prioritization Plan for parcels of interest;
- Page 116, Section 2.5a- review Town bylaws. Ms. Impink said the Zoning Bylaws are being reviewed by the Zoning Bylaw Committee.
- Page 116, Section 3.2a- locations for parking;
- Page 120, Section 5.1c and Section 5.1d- identify parcels for neighborhood parks. Mr. Mullins asked what will happen to the land the schools are on if the new elementary school is approved. Ms. Impink said she asked to be on the Committee for the use of the elementary school land if the new school is approved. She is interested in protecting the new playgrounds that were installed;
- Page 124, Section 8.4a- establish dialogue with Department of Fisheries and Wildlife- create greenways along the Shawsheen and Merrimack Rivers; and
- Page 124, Section 9.1a- identify parcels for acquisition.

Mr. Mullins asked how the Launch was acquired by the town. Ms. Gallo said the Conservation Commission had something to do with it but it was before she started working for the Town.

Ms. Impink noted it's important they go through the plan and make note of items they have already accomplished. Ms. Gallo suggested they make a spreadsheet of all the goals and have a column for the status.

Mr. Mullins said he looks at everything from a mobility standpoint and those goals would probably be most important to him along with increasing green space. Ms. Impink said she would defer to Stefania with respect to accomplishing goals that will take Town resources. Mr. Shick asked if Ms. Gallo is the only resource the Town has to accomplish these goals. Ms. Gallo said the tasks would most likely start with her. Ms. Impink asked if they should reclassify some goals as intermediate instead of short term. Mr. Shick said they should just prioritize the goals. Ms. Durkin suggested voting on the most important goals at the next meeting. If everyone's most important goals are the same they will know it is important. Ms. Gallo said they should email her one week prior to the next meeting with their top 5 goals. Mr. Shick said they should

rank their goals 1-5, with 5 being the most important. They can add up the points and see which goals are the most important to them.

D. Committee News & Updates

Mr. Shick asked if the Open Space and Recreation Plan is finalized yet. Ms. Gallo said she is looking into that with NMCOG. Mr. Shick said the Town is not eligible for certain grants until the plan is finalized. Ms. Sliva noted that there have already been hits on the geocaches placed in Town.

There was a motion to adjourn at 7:56pm. Motion seconded and unanimously approved.

Approved on: May 30, 2019

*List of Documents for 04.18.19 Meeting
Documents can be located in the Office of Community Development*

- Open Space and Recreation Plan Section 9
- iNaturalist City Nature Challenge 2019 Powerpoint Slideshow