Open Space and Recreation Meeting October 4, 2021 7-8:15 PM

Present Paula Devereaux, chair, Nancy Cantelmo, recorder, Ellen Antrim, Rebecca Pillsbury Durgin, Shannon Bianchi, Deb Baldwin and Cora Long, guests

**Minutes** of August 4 and September 22, approved. Ellen proposed, and Paula seconded a motion to accept both sets of minutes. Nancy will contact Diane Dunfee to ask how we upload our minutes to the town website, and report to Paula.

**Discussion of Community Survey**. Ellen said that ADA accessibility to beaches and public spaces, public rights of way, pickleball, and dog parks were mentioned in the raw data. Paula felt that people wanted places for kayaks, paddle boards at Short Beach. Rebecca questioned where a new dog park would be located. Some people do not feel safe on Doggie/Black Beach, on our designated dog beach now, where dogs are unleashed.

The lack of data from the under 18 yo demographic group is concerning. Kevin Andrews is willing to work with the Johnson Elementary School to get some data from the K-6 group. Nancy has asked Courtney Lewis if that should be attempted now or submitted as an action item on the OSR Plan.

Nancy and Ellen thought that our playgrounds were in good shape. We know from CPC data that Flash Road and the Library playgrounds were remodeled in 2006. CPC granting of renovation of Short Beach Playground was approved at last town meeting. It was suggested by Rebecca that some of the comments concerned the smaller children. Nancy will ask Sue Rosa and Kelly Frary, who take care of infants and toddlers, about this issue.

**Discussion of Nahant OSRP Section 6 B Statement of Open Space and Recreation Goals**

The Committee reviewed this section from the 2008 Nahant OSRP, and compared it with the Swampscott OSRP, which was recently fully approved for 2021-2028. Their goals in this section included:

1. Maintain Open Space and Recreation Goals
2. Improve Public access and Awareness
3. Expand and Improve Open Spaces and Recreation Facilities

We feel that Swampscott’s section is more direct and less descriptive, and therefore a better model. Ellen will attempt to merge our specific situation into this framework and will submit to individual committee members for comment.

Such items as access to right of way, as reflected in our survey, were discussed. Paula had been in a discussion with Town Counsel about this issue. Shannon Bianchi, a guest and Planning Board member commented. He said that this was an important issue for the PB, and they needed a map of these right of ways which had become problematic. PB did not want to proceed with this, but Nancy will email Courtney Lewis of MAPC to ask if he could construct such a map for our report. Shannon will discuss with the PB when they will take up this issue.

**Discussion of Nahant OSRP Section 8, goals and Objectives**

We considered our goals, as mentioned in our recent review and from our survey. We feel we do not have sufficient information at present to discuss the objectives needed for these goals.

**New Business**

Ellen reported that a meeting of Zach Taylor of the DPW and Kristin Kent of the Conservation Commission did not occur and has not been planned, as far as she knows. This is important in moving ahead with the Bailey Hill North Slope grant from the CPC voted on at the 2021 Town Meeting. Ellen and Nancy will continue to engage with Zach on this issue.

Two of our guests, Cora and Deb, were concerned with the inadequacy of the pickleball courts under construction at present on Flash Road. They asked if we had submitted to CPC another grant regarding this Pickleball, issue in response to our survey. As the CPC will be meeting in a few weeks to begin the next grant cycle, we responded that we had not submitted another grant.

Shannon Bianchi asked if we would be including the natural springs on the golf course, which connect to a river and estuary, with grasses are mentioned in our plan. He feels that a survey should be done to evaluate this situation and that significant Army Core of Engineering funds would result if this matter is properly studied. We have not prepared this section concerning fresh water for review at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 with a motion by Ellen, seconded by Rebecca. The next meeting will be on October 19th at 7 pm and will involve Courtney Lewis.

Respectfully submitted to the Town Clerk’s Office as approved at the Open Space and Recreation Committee Meeting on October 19, 2021.