Tonight’s Agenda

1. Appoint Chair/Notetaker
2. Introductions
3. Committee Makeup Discussion
4. Project Overview (Forrest)
5. Public Outreach Discussion (Jessica)
6. 2001 Open Space Plan (Jessica)
7. Mapping Inventory Update (Kevin)
8. Public Web-based Survey Discussion (Jessica)
9. Wrap up/Next Steps/Next Meeting
3. Committee Discussion

Expectations:

• Be available for the next year (project timeline is March 2018 – March 2019).
• Provide feedback and guidance to the consultants (FBE & TJD&A).
• Attend at least five committee meetings over the next year.
• Attend two major public meetings (this summer and fall). Committee members may be asked to assist as facilitators in the smaller group sessions.
• Conduct field visits to existing and potential open spaces in South Portland.
• Participate in stakeholder outreach. The committee may be asked to identify and reach out to stakeholders relating to a single property or the process as a whole.
• Review potential strategies and evaluate criteria for open space preservation.
• Support of the Open Space Plan as the City Council considers adoption of the plan and implements strategies outlined by the plan.

Makeup

Additional Members?
Project Consultant Team

• FBE & tjd&a – natural resource management, planning, landscape architecture

• Work with nonprofit and public sector clients located throughout New England—including land trusts

• Open Space Plans: Falmouth; Brunswick; Veazie; Scarborough; Cumberland; Bar Harbor, Harpswell
# SOUTH PORTLAND OPEN SPACE PLAN
## WORK PLAN + TIME TABLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASK</th>
<th>WHO</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Committee Meeting</td>
<td>CONSULTANT / COMMITTEE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Establish + Maintain Online Presence</td>
<td>COMMITTEE</td>
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<td>Data Collection and Inventory</td>
<td>CONSULTANT</td>
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<td>2nd Committee Meeting</td>
<td>CONSULTANT / COMMITTEE</td>
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<td>Public Survey</td>
<td>CONSULTANT / PUBLIC</td>
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<td>Stakeholder Outreach</td>
<td>COMMITTEE / STAKEHOLDERS</td>
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<td>1st Public Meeting</td>
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<td>3rd Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>Mapping Analysis</td>
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<td>Scoring Criteria Development</td>
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<td>Land Acquisition Strategy Development</td>
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<td>4th Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>Stakeholder Outreach</td>
<td>COMMITTEE / STAKEHOLDERS</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Public Meeting</td>
<td>CONSULTANT / COMMITTEE / PUBLIC</td>
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<td>5th Committee Meeting</td>
<td>CONSULTANT / COMMITTEE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Open Space Plan Report</td>
<td>CONSULTANT</td>
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<td>Final Open Space Plan Report</td>
<td>CONSULTANT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Space Plan Implementation</td>
<td>COMMITTEE (consultant assistance not included in current contract)</td>
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Legend:
- COMMITTEE MEETINGS
- STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH
- PUBLIC MEETINGS
- PLAN IMPLEMENTATION
Our Experience

1. This should be a “plan to implement”

2. A plan should be a “living/breathing plan”

3. Landowners must be a part of the process
5. PUBLIC OUTREACH  A transparent and inclusive public process will ensure the Open Space Plan is a reflection of community’s input and values, is a comprehensive and accurate document, and has public support to facilitate acceptance and implementation.

**DIGITAL**

**ONLINE**
A City webpage should be home to all Open Space material, agendas, updates.
Why will manage this?

**SOCIAL MEDIA**
We will use existing social media pages.
Which ones?

**ONLINE SURVEY**
Designed to reach the maximum number of people, including those who cannot attend public meetings.

**COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

**FIRST PUBLIC MEETING**
We will collect data, gain feedback, and inform the community about the process. The meeting will include a presentation and charrette-style table top discussions.

**SECOND PUBLIC MEETING**
We will present the results of the inventory and analysis work, and the strategies under consideration. We will ask the public for feedback related to priorities in open space conservation.

Committee members to assist with leading small group discussions

**STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH**

Identify stakeholders.

Keep them updated, learn from them, gain their support.

Open Space Committee to be involved in individual stakeholder outreach and communication.
6. Review of 2001 OPEN SPACE STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Generated a **map of parcels considered for open space preservation**, with permission by owners.
2. Developed an **evaluation system to rank potential parcels** under consideration for open space preservation.
3. Provided a list of **Recommended Actions** for both the City Council and Conservation Commission to undertake.
1. **STRENGTHEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION.**
   Elevate the function and resources of the Conservation Commission.
   • Temporarily use Planning intern as budget permits.
   • Strengthen the ordinance establishing the Commission.
   • Fund new staff position.
   • Provide office space/supplies/equipment.

2. **BOND.** Include in the FY 2001/02 Capital Improvements Budget a $1M bond issue request to the voters to fund open space protection.

3. **TAX DEDICATION.** Dedicate 3¢ in the property tax rate to fund open space protection; one third to Land Bank fund; two-thirds to a part-time or full-time Conservation Commission staff position.

4. **PURCHASE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMONS.** Authorize City departments to work with SPLT, neighborhood associations, and volunteer attorneys to help neighborhoods in the purchase of private neighborhood commons.
2001 OPEN SPACE STRATEGIC PLAN
RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1. **GRANTS.** Prepare grant applications (Land For Maine’s Future) with Land Trust and neighboring land trusts/municipalities.

2. **WETLAND PROTECTION.** Strengthen relationships with environmental permitting agencies to promote wetland mitigation in South Portland.

3. **LAND BANK.** Develop City ordinance amendments to direct funds from sale or lease of City-owned land to the Land Bank fund and clarify the management of the account.

4. **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.** Develop amendments to the City's land use regulations to provide greater protection to environmentally sensitive areas.

5. **CONSERVATION EASEMENTS.** Obtain conservation easements and land donations and pursue other non-acquisition strategies (with SPLT).

6. **WATERSHED STUDIES.** Work with Pollution Abatement, Casco Bay Estuary Project, and SPLT in getting a grant to perform a comprehensive conceptual study of the City's watersheds for strategies that also protect open space.

7. **CONTINUE OPEN SPACE PLANNING.**
   - Keep current the inventory of potential parcels.
   - Perform due diligence for each parcel.
   - Develop an action plan for each parcel.
   - Stay in contact with landowners.
   - Educate the public about open space protection.

8. **JOINT MEETINGS.** Hold two joint meetings between the Conservation Commission and the Open Space Committee.
WHAT IS OPEN SPACE?

DEFINITION IN 2001 OPEN SPACE STRATEGIC PLAN:

Open Space refers to any essentially unimproved parcel or area of land or water, the preservation of which would accomplish any of the following:

(1) conserve and enhance natural or scenic resources;
(2) protect water quality;
(3) promote conservation of soils, wetlands, beaches, or tidal marshes;
(4) enhance the value to the public of abutting or neighboring parks, trails, forests, or nature preserves;
(5) enhance passive recreation opportunities.

THOUGHTS...

• Does a property need to be “unimproved” to be open space? What about a playground, sports field, bike path?
• Does the land need to be publicly accessible to be open space?
• Should sidewalks and ‘complete streetscapes’ qualify as open space?
• Is open space any undeveloped private property - even if not held in conservation?
• Is private agricultural or forest land open space?
IS THIS OPEN SPACE?
7. Initial GIS Inventory

Everything is a draft until the Plan is Final!

Google Earth KMZ
South Portland Open Space Plan
Existing & Potential Open Space Areas
8. PUBLIC SURVEY

A web-based survey will be made available to the citizens of South Portland, in an effort to reach the maximum number of people through our public outreach.

The survey will provide us with an understanding of public perspective regarding open space. Survey responses will guide the themes, goals, and priorities for the Open Space Plan.

Questions in this survey may include topics such as:

- Existing use of open space
- Importance/benefits of open space
- Identification of under-served neighborhoods
- Willingness to pay for open space conservation
- Priorities for open space conservation
- Identification of areas that should be protected

**DISTRIBUTION**: The survey will be hosted by Google Forms. The survey link should be made available to existing email list serves, City website, Facebook pages, schools, etc.

**TIMING**: Survey should be available before and after our first public meeting. Complete review of survey will be completed at second committee meeting.
9. Next Steps/Meeting

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