

Fort Williams Master Plan Update 2021
USER GROUP ZOOM MEETINGS NOTES

Group 1.FRIENDS OF FWP

Meeting Time: November 30, 4:00 pm- 5:30 pm

1. Friends of Fort Williams Foundation – Andrea Southworth
2. Barbara Powers
3. Jennifer Scarpitti
4. FWP Committee Representatives

Discussion/ Comments

- Board of 10 Members / (2) Staff Members / (1) Gardener / Many Volunteer
- 501 C3 Nonprofit Organization
- Budget: Annual Maintenance/ Project and Operations
- No Funding from Town
- Chain of command Friends of FWP go to FWP committee who go to Town for final approval on projects.
- Arboretum project start in 201; Called the Ecology project presently – Rebranding purpose
- Goal set up 14 sites to demonstrate control of invasive plant species
- Mission;
 - Invasive species management
 - Education
 - Ecology of Park
- Issues:
 - People don't know Friends of FWP is a separate group
 - Lack of Recognition of efforts-
 - Unclear relationship with FWP Committee/ Town
 - Maintenance fatigue- Maxed out
 - Ecology Play can't just belong Friends of FWP- Future projects- responsibility of Town as "owners" of the park
 - Re-Branding needed
 - Funding; PHL Gift shop not will to sell Friends of FWP merchandise
 - Will not work in South Preserve- not projected as dedicated open space
- Cliff Walk- A successful project; moving away from traditional horticulture practices
- Battery Blaire- Planning to manage in a different manner

Group 2.Civic

Meeting Time: November 30, 6:00 pm- 7:30 pm

1. CE Historical Society- Jim Rowe
2. CE Land Trust – Cindy Crum, Ex. Director
3. Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation – Liz McEvoy Ex. Dir.
4. Thomas Memorial Library Foundation – Tyler Patterson
5. CE Middle School Parents Association – Heather Reeves
6. CE High School Parents Association – Liana Ericson
7. Pond Cove Parents Association. – Elizabeth Matheson
8. Representatives of FWP Committee

CE Historical Society

Discussion/ Comments

- CE Historical Society- Establish in 1970/ 150 people
- Discussion of of history of how the park came to be
- Provide History walks in the park
- Generally happy with park- “Every move make sense”
- Level of interpretation seems fine- approves of bronze plaques and Battery Blaire interpretation panels
- Goddard Mansion- Has been kicked down the road- Money issues with preserving it
- Visitor Center- in Officer Row building? A way to preserve the buildings
- Sign Clutter in the park
- Important buildings to preserve; Officer’s Row Buildings, Engineer Store House, Gun Shed, Goddard Mansion
- Less Important- Garages

Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation – Liz McEvoy Ex. Dir.

Discussion/ Comments

- 501C3 Nonprofit Organization / 14 Member Board
- Role in park- Helping teachers use the park
- Outreach programs in the park needed / Increased education opportunities needed

Pond Cove Parents Association. – Elizabeth Matheson

Discussion/ Comments

- No real direct involvement with park
- Park is the “Fabric of the Community”
- Currently the play grounds are for younger children- tops out at 8 years old.
- Possibly add- other outdoor play experiences- rope course in Southwest Preserve?

Thomas Memorial Library Foundation – Tyler Patterson

Discussion/ Comments

- No real direct involvement with park
Park issue: “ How to share a gem of park without damaging it”

CE Land Trust – Cindy Crum, Ex. Director

Discussion/ Comments

- Trust has 768 Acres of easements
- Robinson Woods Preserve across the street from FWP
- Cliff walk is great.
- Desire to have a park to explore the natural environment- More trails in park would be great

Group 3.SPORTS

Meeting Time: December 1, 4 pm- 5:30 pm

1. Tennis group – Kathleen Pierce, Susan Steinman
2. Pickleball group – Glenn Jordan
3. Cape Elizabeth Little League – Jeremy Lombardo
4. CE Youth Soccer – Brenna and Peter Kelly
5. Ultimate Frisbee – Peter Kelley
6. Representatives of FWP Committee

Tennis group – Kathleen Pierce, Susan Steinman

Discussion/ Comments

- Demands- Friday Mornings busy/ Other days low
- Condition of Court Poor- Cracks, Puddling
- Location is nice- Protected from wind, beautiful, not in middle of park
- Wish list- Maybe add one more court

Pickleball group – Glenn Jordan

Discussion/ Comments

- Currently 4 courts
- Lots of use- All levels
- Parking at Public Works- Seems to be working
- Some drainage issues- puddling on court
- Current alignment not great- ideally North-South orientation- Likely would need to cut into existing slope
- Wish list- Wind screens, water fountain, benches, (4) more courts

Cape Elizabeth Little League – Jeremy Lombardo

Discussion/ Comments

- T ball program- about 200 children
- Parents stay for games
- Finding Parking can be challenging
- 3 locations- at sports / soccer field, field at parade ground/bleachers, field at behind Officer Row building/ shore road.
- Fields in great shape.

Ultimate Frisbee – Peter Kelley

Discussion/ Comments

- Organization not Town affiliated

- In the past used The Meadow, but Town asked to stop- Not much top soil – poor grass conditions
- Use Soccer field when available
- Ideally playing field is sized 110 yrds x 50 yrds.

CE Youth Soccer – Brenna and Peter Kelly

Discussion/ Comments

- 300 Youth- boys and girls
- Fields in great shape
- Issues with Parking
- Dog running onto field issues

Group 4.DOGS/ GARDENS

Meeting Time: December 1, 6:00 pm- 7:30 pm

1. Dog walking community – Heidi Hansen
2. CE Garden Club – Nancy Atwell
3. Community Gardens – Deb Cavanaugh
4. Gull Crest Gardens – Rachel Stamieszkin – Not Present
5. FWP Committee Representatives

Dog walking community – Heidi Hansen

Discussion/ Comments

- Facebook group- No formal organization; Share news, photos of dogs
- Area of off leash and on leash area discussed.
- Discussed Issues with “tourists wondering” into dog area- “afraid” of dogs.
- Discussed the possible need for a fence at athletic field.
- Discussed that Park is NOT a dog Park.
- Discussed Carry in Carry Out Policy Issues- dog poop disposal issues- People are not obeying policy

CE Garden Club – Nancy Atwell

Discussion/ Comments

- 44 Members
- 1990 completed “landscaping in center traffic circle at PHL.
- Completed “Keeper’s Garden” at PHL.
- Plans to add another garden at PHL did not happen.
- Looking to stop gardening at Keeper’s garden and plan on either side of walk leading to the PHL.

Community Gardens – Deb Cavanaugh

Discussion/ Comments

- Volunteer based
- Community Garden – 90 plots
- Limited Powers to Maintain Area
- Historically had Phlox at the entrance field – The Meadow

Group 5.SPECIAL EVENTS/ VENDORS

Meeting Time: December 2, 4 pm- 5:30 pm

1. Beach to Beacon – Dave McGillivry / David Backer
2. Unified Parking Partners – Asher Cheppell
3. Trollies, Motorcoaches
 - a. Nancy Bloch – Starr Tours
 - b. Greg Gordon – Destinations North America
 - c. Chris Rackmyer – Maine Tour Connection
 - d. Narm Forgery – Maine Day Trip Tours
 - e. Bill and Kathy Frappier – Portland Discovery
 - f. Erik Pray – Portland Explorer
4. Food Vendors
 - a. Bite into Maine- Mathew Ogden
 - b. Gorgeous Gelato – Donato Giovine
 - c. Cousins Maine Lobster
5. Expressive Vendors
 - a. Kris and Marilyn Kristiansen
 - b. Larry Capman
6. FWP Committee Representatives

Beach to Beacon – DaveMcGillivry

Discussion/ Comments

- 23rd Time Running!
- Sets up - 4 days and Tear down- less than 1 day
- "Mini tent" city.- Use the entire park
- Finish line is at the green.
- The route is very measured and accurate for a nationally ranked race.
- Nationally ranked #1 running event
- Issues/ Wish List Items;
 - Entrance where the runners enter the park is narrow- Ideally widen
 - The Green is leveled for a better finish
 -

Unified Parking Partners – Asher Cheppell

Discussion/ Comments

- Discussed contract and operations
- Issues; Pay and Display is a cellular based system- Park issues with Cell reception

Trollies, Motorcoaches

- a. Nancy Bloch – Starr Tours
- b. Greg Gordon – Destinations North America
- c. Chris Rackmyer – Maine Tour Connection
- d. Narm Forgery – Maine Day Trip Tours
- e. Bill and Kathy Frappier – Portland Discovery
- f. Erik Pray – Portland Explorer

Discussion/ Comments

- Discussed with all vendors about number of buses/ vans, length of stays (generally 20-30min), number of people per bus or coach or van
- Issues;
 - ADA issues from Bus/ Coach drop-off area to PHL
 - Tripping issues on curb at Bus/ Coach drop-off Area
 - Gift shop is small
 - People walking in road- Sidewalks not wide enough to handle the volume of people
 - Lack of physical restrooms facility- Port a Potties perception
 - Demographic- Older- Walking/ Accessibility issues
- Suggestions;
 - Kiosk at Bus/ Coach drop-off area with best-selling items

Food Vendors

- a. Bite into Maine- Mathew Ogden
- b. Gorgeous Gelato – Donato Giovine
- c. Cousins Maine Lobster

Discussion/ Comments

- Discussed Operations, and Issues with each Vendor locations
- Issues;
 - Number one Issue- Trash- Carry in Carry out policy
 - Power issues (Bite into Maine- currently runs 100' power cord to run food truck operations)

Expressive Vendors

- a. Kris and Marilyn Kristiansen
- b. Larry Capman

Discussion/ Comments

- Discussed purpose / operations,
- No real issues

Group 6. COMMUNITY/ CIVIC

Meeting Time: December 1, 6 pm- 7:30 pm

1. CE Community Services – Kathy Raftice (Held on December 7, 2020)
2. Cape Cottage Beach Association – Surf Road neighbors – Terri Patterson
3. Rotary Club – Mike Genesco
4. Lions Club – Roger Bishop
5. FWP Committee Representatives

CE Community Services – Kathy Raftice (Held on December 7, 2020 with Richardson & Associates)

Discussion/ Comments

- Discussed purpose / operations / Role and Responsibility as Director of Community Services
 - Staff at FWP- Under Community Services
 - i. Chris Cutter
 - ii. (3) Greeters- PHL
 - iii. (4) Rangers- Park
- Discussed Budget
- Discussed Programs that use park
- Park could be utilized more
- Discussed specific areas within park
 - Picnic shelter – Popular
 - Ship Cove – Less Popular
- Discussed policies
 - Dogs
 - Carry in Carry out
 - Rentals/ Vendors
 - Group Use

Cape Cottage Beach Association – Surf Road neighbors – Terri Patterson

Discussion/ Comments

- Neighbors use the park daily
- Issues;
- Busses- Traffic, exhaust
- Park feeling over developed
- Feels park should focus on local community

Rotary Club – Mike Genesco

Discussion/ Comments

- Discussed purpose / operations of organization
- Use the park for social events, lobster back
- Assist with gardens, invasive species removal
- Provided funding for Picnic Shelter, Painting of PHL, Children’s Garden, Garden at PHL
- No real issues

Lions Club – Roger Bishop

Discussion/ Comments

- Discussed purpose / operations
- Community Based- CE and South Portland
- Family Fun Day event at Parade Ground
 - Use Parade Ground
 - Serves 1000 Cape Elizabeth residents
 - Music at and Activities
 - Fireworks- 2,000-3,000 people
- Issues;
 - Port a potty- limited amount for the event
 - ADA Accessibility from Parking lot to Parade Ground- Events.
 - Power in the area is limited- Possibly add More GFI outlets