

FORT WILLIAMS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES – 4/17/08
Location: Public Works Lunch Room

Present: Chuck Wilson, Maureen McCarthy, Bill Nickerson, Dan Chase, Tina Butterworth and Frank Butterworth.

Absent: Greg Altnauer.

Staff: Bob Malley (on vacation)

Guests attending: Rick Churchill, Kathryn Bacastow, Cheryl Rich.

Called to Order 7:10 PM by Chuck Wilson.

Approval of the minutes of the March 20, 2008 meeting. Motion to approve brought by Dan, seconded by Bill with the minor changes provided by Tina. All voted in favor.

Presentation by Arboretum Group.

Kathy discussed the background of where they started. Her intention was to do something in memory of her father and then started talking about the Fort being a place to do some work to help with the horticultural issues. She wants to enhance and preserve. Start small and build upon each step.

Rick Churchill was the tree warden in Cape Elizabeth for several years. He has taught at SMCC. He mentioned that gardens are too high maintenance and that working with trees and shrubs is a better solution. If you put the right tree or shrub in the right spot it is more “ecologically sound” and does not cost lots of money.

Cheryl Rich is an instructor at SMCC. She said working on projects in the Fort would be a good resource for the students. This would be a good opportunity for community and educational involvement.

Rick also brought up the fact that several of the stands of trees all had the same age trees. He said we need to get younger trees going in the same stands. You put trees in that tolerate under growth. As these new trees start to mature, the older trees that have diseases and/or insect infestation like the Black Cherries currently in the Fort, may be removed and allow for the newer trees to take the place of the older trees.

They also discussed that the invasive plants need lots of work. He suggested that you could do it chemically, environmentally chemically friendly or brute force. FWAC stated that the Town would not use chemicals.

Chuck brought up costs. Kathy suggested donations, membership to Arboretum and setting up classes through Community Service. Dan brought up fundraising through FWCF. Kathy would need to coordinate working with them.

Bill Nickerson asked Cheryl who takes care of Spring Point. She stated that the City of South Portland takes care of it.

Chuck suggested that this be started small and see how it goes. The FWAC would want specifics. Need to understand liability to the town. Also would need to understand any potential restrictions any grant money or donations might have long term. Tina also wanted to know who would oversee the project and manage the fund raising. Kathy stated she is passionate about this and would manage it.

2008 Budget:

- End of year tight.
- Tree money is getting used up.
- Stone wall money will be used.
- The stairs down at the cliff walk by the Headlight area are completed.
- The lights for the flag poles will be done end of April.
- Connecting the light to picnic shelter was not done. It is presently on hold to make sure we don't exceed the budget.
- Lucas Tree has been working in Surf/Chapel Road. We are quickly running out of money budgeted. One very large oak tree was completely dead and had to be removed..

2009 Budget:

Budget was approved as submitted.

Old Business:

Installation of the new collection boxes are on hold until ground frost is all gone.

Interpretive display is with the engineering firm. Frank agreed to join Maureen as a subcommittee and will set a meeting with Bob to come up with a vision of what we are thinking about. Maureen is to get with Ellen Nadeau and ask if she would share the information she had collected.

Main Entrance:

Tom Emery, Chuck Wilson, Dan Chase and Bob Malley met.

- Survey is being done for the entrance area.
- Drainage needs review
- Curbing needs review.
- Type of fence
- How far back the stone walls need to be

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- Bob checking on if this project will need to go before the planning board.

New Business

Workshop with the consultants is set for May 1. They will present their time line for the projects, discuss their activities to date, and solicit and receive guidance from the FWAC.

Tina suggested an article about what we are doing to put in the Cape Courier. She is going to draft the article for Commission's review and we will decide when to put the article in the paper.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Workshop with Renner/Woodworth: May 1, 2008 at 7:00 PM.

Next meeting: Thu, May 15, 2008, 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen McCarthy, Secretary