

**FORT WILLIAMS ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING NOTES — 6/19/08
Location: Public Works Lunch Room**

Present: Chuck Wilson, Maureen McCarthy, Bill Nickerson, Dan Chase, Frank Butterworth, Greg Altnauer.

Absent: Tina Harden

Staff: Bob Malley

Guests attending: Rick Churchill, Kathryn Bacastow, Kris Murray, John Mitchell, Tom Emery and Rick Renner.

Called to Order 7:05 PM by Chuck Wilson.

Approval of the minutes of the May 1, 2008 workshop meeting. Motion to approve brought by Greg, seconded by Dan. All voted in favor.

Approval of the minutes of the May 15, 2008 meeting. Motion to approve brought by Frank, seconded by Greg. All voted in favor.

Presentation by Arboretum Group.

Kathy discussed briefly the project goals of the demonstration site at the northerly entrance of the cliff walk. They have evaluated viability, conception, funding, management and maintenance. Their plan is to obtain all the funding necessary before they begin any work.

John Mitchell provided a map that showed the one acre area that they plan to develop in various stages. Their intention is to work on clearing the invasive plants first. They are hoping to achieve the funding for both the 1a and the 1b areas. He reiterated that they would only start and complete what they had available for funds.

Greg asked if they were planning on doing anything with the Battery that is there. They stated the only plan was to clear away the vegetation.

Rick discussed that there had not been an actual selection of trees and plants. Just suggestions have been made to their team. They are planning only trees that would be viable in the specific area. The thought was that they would do crab apple trees as they would do well in that area. Each of the sections would have its own theme.

Frank asked if it would keep the cliff walk invisible. John said that even though the area would be cleared, due to the elevations it would still not be visible. They were also asked if there would be access to the other areas without trouble to the initial area. They said that thought it might be easier to work the back area first, they wanted to be visible and Kris Murray said they would still be able to access the back area after the front was complete.

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They wanted the front to build enthusiasm for the entire project. Maintenance includes control of invasive species. Bob indicated that whatever is to be done should not include “hands and knee work” as his crews do not have time for that type of work. They were asked if SMCC was still planning on participating and as of this point in time that is the intention. They have done some rough figures on 1a and 1b section and feel that it will take about \$50K.

Chuck requested that a formal proposal be written on what the project is, funding thoughts and long-term plan. We feel the design and cost budget needs to be completed.

A motion was brought by Bill and seconded by Greg that:

The Commission is in favor of the demonstration project proposal as presented; the formal proposal will be sent to Bob for final review of details and submitted to the Town Council for final approval.

All voted in favor and passed unanimously.

Consultants Presentations:

The topics for discussion were: Main Entrance, Investigation and Preliminary Finding on Bleachers and Interpretive Display.

Main gate:

It will be necessary to prioritize the projects that will get completed for the main entrance gate. Begin with the fence and the pillars, longer fencing, stone walls and curbing.

They are working on removal plan, detailed new plan, and a project scope plan and site details. Landscaping, drainage, pavement and curbing will need to be addressed in the project. The design development cost budget needs to be completed.

The cost for the main entrance gate to 200 feet on both sides could exceed the total budget. Also, drainage is an issue and needs to be addressed. The base supports for the pillars and pylons and curbing will need to be reviewed. Received update and approved moving forward.

Bleachers:

Backhoe did two test pits. There is storage area under one end. It appears they were poured directly on the ground. In their opinion the new section (easterly, towards the water) which is 106 feet is in worst shape and they are recommending that we not pursue repair of this area.

They feel it is important to test the concrete in the older section to determine what kind of sand was used in mixing the concrete. Beach sand has too much salt and weakens the

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concrete. If it has a high content of beach sand they would probably recommend demolishing and rebuilding. If it has a low content they will develop strategies on repair. The recommendation to get rid of storage area underneath was discussed. We would need to find another place to store the softball material.

The recommendation to drill cores, two at the cost of \$1,500 per test will give an indication of break strength. They suggested that an action plan needs to be developed soon to address potential safety issues with the new section of the bleachers.

The question was asked whether anyone makes pre-cast bleachers. No one really does and it would have to be a custom job. Footings would be necessary and they would need to be below frost level.

A motion was brought by Greg and seconded by Dan:

Move to have the core testing on the bleachers completed.

All voted in favor and passed unanimously.

Interpretive Display:

Suggestion has been made that it be moved slightly north of where it is presently for better views. The subcommittee has okayed the layout/colors and mix of information. The design mountings need to be worked on for completion. Hardscaping may have to be delayed due to budget constraints.

Next meeting of the subcommittee is July 2 to look at east and south panels.

2008 Budget:

All bills need to be in by 6/25. Flag poles and shelter all have electricity to them. Stairways have been completed.

2009 Budget:

Budget becomes effective and any funds not utilized will carry forward.

Old Business:

PSO Concert. Meeting was held with PSO officials to review policy issues and all items. Wording is going to people buying tickets about no alcohol policy. Additionally a message board is being placed prior to entrance stating no alcohol policy. Police will patrol before concert, but not during concert.

Collection boxes. They are in and signs are up. Don't know if more money is being received. The feeling is they need something more obvious to draw people to the boxes.

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Family Fun Day. Rotary was down in dollars due to higher product costs. Lions sold out completely. Football boosters sold out. Charitable Foundation had 125 climbers. Moon bounce went well. Overall it was busier than last year. Less cars but more walk-in traffic. There was a lot of trash left behind due to the fire works. Probably next year there will have to be a clean up crew scheduled to come in the next morning.

New Business:

Traffic counts presently going on in the Fort; will continue for a week.

Chrysler Event - \$2,500 fee per day and they were there two days. They were slightly high maintenance.

Boy Scout Camporee occurred and the boys collected over 70 bags of leaves. There were no complaints made regarding their stay.

Lighthouse use in pictures. We have not licensed the likeness so there is little we can do about the use of pictures without prior approval or a fee.

Hydrogen Road Tour. Maine Clean Cities/Alternative Energy Committee. They want to bring in vehicles on Monday morning and then leave same day. Discussion is occurring on use on Sunday. They have been told that they may not use the Lighthouse circle. They will be responsible for any associated costs with them being in the Fort.

A motion was made by Bill and seconded by Frank:

Motion to authorize Bob Malley to work with Hydrogen Road Tour for August 11, 2008 use of the park.

All voted favorable, motion passed unanimously.

Chuck would like to request funds from the Fort William Charitable Foundation for the hardscaping for the Interpretive Display so it may be completed this year.

A motion was made by Bill and seconded by Frank:

That the Commission will make a request to the FWCF for \$9K to do hardscaping for Interpretive Display.

All voted in favor and it passed unanimously.

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Chuck presented letters:

Ginny Kurtz regarding the garden areas at the gate and by the lighthouse. She wants proceeds from gift shop to fund. Bob talked with Jean Gross and we are adding it to the contract for the other miscellaneous gardening that the public works does not handle.

Diana Sainte suggested that there be fees for buses. Chuck is to respond that the Town Council put it out for vote to the town and it was declined. We will not pursue.

It was also suggested that we have meetings in July and August.

July: Maureen and Dan will not be able to attend.

August: Frank and Greg will not be able to attend.

Chuck requested a volunteer to attend the FWCF meeting on July 26 and Maureen volunteered.

Question regarding the additional cleanings of the port potties and Bob said he has not had any complaints but will follow up with Jean Gross on feedback she may have received.

Frank has volunteered to do the meeting minutes in July in Maureen's absence.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

Next meeting: Thu, July 18, 2008, 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen McCarthy, Secretary