

Town of Cape Elizabeth Fort Williams Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2013

Present:

Bill Brownell (Chair), Frank Butterworth, Gregg Frame, Erin Grady, Don Head, Bill Nickerson, Lise Pratt

Also Present:

Steve Bates (FWF), Nate Greene and Bret Lebleu (FWF Children's Garden project)

Staff:

Bob Malley

Call to Order: Bill Brownell called the meeting to order at 6:31PM.

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the February 21 meeting were approved without amendment.

Children's Garden Design:

Nate Greene and Bret Lebleu presented the FWF's final plan for the Children's Garden. There was a detailed discussion of the water feature that includes a stream tumbling downhill to the existing pond. Water from the pond will be pumped uphill to a biofilter that will clean the water before it enters the stream. This process will have the effect of cleaning the pond as well – which is sorely needed. There will also be filters in the pond to capture leaves, twigs, and the like. Bob Malley said that his people would take care of the necessary cleaning of these filters

The Commission unanimously approved this design as presented.

Battery Blair Feasibility Study

Chair Brownell described the study as thorough and informative and called for discussion. Steve Bates said that the FWF had agreed to fund the study but had not taken a position on the rehabilitation project itself. Steve and several Commission members offered the view that it is not feasible to attempt fund-raising for this project while the Arboretum project is underway.

A motion was made by Don Head, seconded by Erin Grady, to table the study until some future time. The motion carried unanimously.

FWF Report:

Steve Bates said that the total cost of the Children's Garden will be in excess of \$500,000 including a maintenance fund. He said that construction will not begin until this money is raised, and he projected that Spring, 2014, is probably the earliest likely start date.

The total fund-raising initiative is \$2.5 million including the Children's Garden and the completion of the Cliffwalk from Cliffside to the Lighthouse. A reception was held at the home of Janet Villiotte to generate interest in the campaign cabinet. That goal seems to be coming to fruition.

The major summer fund-raiser will be garden parties on June 28-29 at 402 Pulpit Rock Road. Last year's garden tour raised about \$30,000, and it is hoped that this year's different format will achieve the same amount.

Town Council Finance Committee:

Bill Brownell and Bob Malley participated in the Finance Committee of the FWAC 2014 Fort Williams budget. The budget was approved with one minor change.

The Finance Committee also discussed the request by the American Cancer Society to hold its Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk in Fort Williams. The Committee amended FWAC's approval of this walk in order to waive all use fees for this time only. Members of the Commission expressed concern that this precedent could prove troublesome when other nonprofit organizations make requests to use the park.

Park, Projects, and Concessions

Work has begun in the Ship Cove parking area and the picnic slab. Necessary excavation, surface preparation, and other work including pouring a new slab surface should be completed in early April after which there will be a hiatus into May when black top facilities get underway for the season.

Three food vendors have signed on for the 2013 season, but the fourth slot remains open. After some discussion the Commission agreed with Bob Malley's thought another round of advertising should be tried.

Other business:

The Commission agreed to change meeting start times to 7:00PM. The next meeting will be April 11 – a week ahead of the usual schedule – and will include several representatives of FWF to discuss various issues that have arisen through the Arboretum Project. These issues include naming rights, signage, Cliffside maintenance, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06PM. Our next meeting will be Thursday, April 11, at **7:00PM** at the Public Works Facility.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Head, Secretary