

Town of Cape Elizabeth

Fort Williams Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2014

Present:

Bill Brownell (Chair), Don Head, Bill Nickerson, Lise Pratt, Mark Russell, Chris Corbett

Absent: Terry Ann Scriven

Also present:

Lynn Shaffer (FWF)

James McCain (FWF)

Frank Governali

Staff:

Bob Malley

Call to order: Chair Bill Brownell called the meeting to order at 5:38PM.

During this meeting the Commission walked through Fort Williams Park looking at sites where projects are underway or contemplated.

Cliffside and Cliff Walk:

The Commission approved added fencing along Cliff Walk in fiscal year 2015 (beginning July 1, 2014), targeting the area of Cliffside where an area on the water side of the walk has recently been cleared. Bob Malley noted and the Commission agreed that there may be a better use of the 2015 allocation. Extending northward the fence added last year at the view point with a sheer drop would better enhance public safety.

Light House View Project:

Lynn Shaffer and James McCain led a discussion of progress here in the two different sites that make up this project.

In the longer-term Lighthouse View Restoration Project, landscape architect Regina Leonard's project team conducted an inventory of both native and invasive plants. This work will also extend along the remainder of Cliff Walk this year. In the restoration area, a number of test plots each roughly five feet square will be constructed to try various methods of mechanical control of invasive plants to learn which methods work best. The plots will be monitored and documented over two years by an ecologist from the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry's "Maine Natural Areas Program." A path will be constructed through the area to provide access and to enable the public to observe the experiment.

The Light House View Project itself is well underway with grading and path work complete. Shrub and tree planting and seeding of various wildflowers will begin after Memorial Day.

Potential second picnic shelter:

A second picnic shelter was chosen as one of the priorities in the 2011 Master Plan. The site would be the wooded area east of the multipurpose field and overlooking The Green.

Parking areas at the playground and maintenance buildings:

Another priority in the 2011 Master Plan is improvement of parking in this area through defining parking spaces and improving circulation for vehicles and pedestrians. The Plan envisions a gravel lot.

Upper tennis and basketball courts:

In April the Commission approved the game of Pickleball as an additional use of the tennis court here and authorized the use of tape to mark the Pickleball courts. The local Pickleball players have found that other people have removed the tape whenever they have installed it. The Commission voted unanimously to allow the players to paint the lines for the courts at their own expense.

Children's Garden and the Pond:

Lynn Shaffer led a walk through the sites and explained how the water feature in the Children's Garden is designed to aid in cleaning the Pond. Water from the Pond will be used in the water feature, and it will be filtered as it flows. There will be a targeted Spring fund-raising appeal.

Bleachers:

The bleachers at the Parade Ground and their crumbling concrete were the subject of a study in 2009 but no action was taken, at least in part because of the expense. Money has been budgeted in fiscal 2015 to look again at alternatives.

Potential group reception area:

The group reception area – also a Master Plan priority - is part of what is now the overflow parking lot above the Parade Ground. Use of the area for groups serving alcohol was tested successfully when the Commission approved use by the Troopers' Association in 2013. The next approved use will be the Taste of the Nation fundraising dinner this year. If revenue from this usage grows sufficiently, there will be efforts to add electricity and perhaps water to the site.

Ocean/Wheatley Road project:

This project budgeted in the 2014 fiscal year is nearly complete including reshaping the intersection and adding catch basins to improve drainage.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:17PM. Our next meeting will be Thursday, June 19, at **7:00PM** at the Public Works Facility, and we will be joined by representatives of the Board of the Fort Williams Foundation.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Head, Secretary