

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Fort Williams Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2015

Present: Lise Pratt, Chris Corbett, Chris Straw, Joe Kozlowski, Terry Ann Scriven, Mark Russell , town manager Mike McGovern and staff member Bob Malley

Lise called the meeting to order at 7:03

The meeting minutes from 10/15/15 were approved on 6-0 vote

Resignations

Members Lise Pratt and Chris Corbett offered their resignations to the commission. Lise noted personal reasons and in her comments and Chris explained that he was moving to South Portland. Both thanked all members for their good work of the past year and wished the FWAC good things going forward. Lise said that replacements and appointments for the coming year were to be made at the 12/14 town council meeting.

Fort Williams Park Foundation Report

A written report submitted by Bob Ayotte included the following: The Annual Appeal, with a budget of \$75,000 was mailed this past week to 1300+ past and potential donors. The Children's Garden achieved its fundraising goal with a check for \$5,000 from the SP/ CE Rotary. A total of 8 grant proposals amounting to \$135,000 have been submitted to foundations to fund work at Cliff Walk Landscape. Construction planning is underway for Children's Garden with Mitchell & Assoc. preparing documents. LP Murray & Sons has been selected to perform excavation and site prep work. Linkel Construction has been selected as the general contractor for the project. Excavation is planned to start in early April with general contractor work following in late May. Volunteer work groups have begun clearing sections of Cliff Walk Landscape. The first controlled application of herbicide by a licensed applicator will take place next week. James McCain has been keeping Bob Malley apprised of this work.

Park Update – Bob Malley

Bob noted that it was "relatively quiet in the park these days." The annual task of picking up leaves was ahead of schedule. He has been working with John Mitchell on the bleacher project specs.

There is a concern that existing concrete steps adjacent to the bleachers may not withstand the demolition process. It was hoped to save them to provide access to the overflow parking area. John Mitchell had suggested including step replacement in the base bid using granite risers. Bob said the granite could be reused if any new proposed design became a conflict with the steps. Mike McGovern expressed concern about the scope of the project expanding and requested that the steps be included as an "Add/Alternate" in the bid so the amount would be known and could either be accepted or rejected, depending on the amount bid. Bob will contact John M. and request the change. The bid opening for the project is Thursday, December 3 and work could start as early as the week of December 17th.

Chris Corbett inquired about the "NO Padlocks" sign attached to the fencing south of the head light. Bob reported that one had been installed at the request of Mike McGovern.

Report re: Council action on Goddard Mansion

A recent survey in tax bills included a question regarding the Goddard Mansion. It was included in the survey since it was listed as a goal by one of the Town Council members. Demolition, stabilization and development for commercial use were included as options for respondents to consider. Town manager Mike McGovern noted that the town council voted unanimously to continue to stabilize the building and maintain the fencing and continue existing policy, which costs the town about \$5,000 a year on average. Demolition was the least favored option. Mike suggested a commission walk around the area with an eye on concerns for safety on the ocean side of the building and in the Battery Keyes location. He noted that more work should be considered with railings and walkways in the park.

Bleacher Project Phase II

Mike noted that the town council has been discussing surveys and the need for more public input on a regular basis. With regard to the bleacher project, there was "a desire for a more global view" and a thought that surveys may be best later in the process. There was a need for more public input first. Articles, poster boards, public forums and focus groups were brought up as ways to educate the citizens and invite public engagement and input on the proposed project and Mike mentioned a similar project in North Carolina that was "sponsored" by TD Bank. Lise offered to submit a brief article soon to the Courier to inform about the bleacher demolition plans. Chris Straw will update his earlier draft of a Cape Courier article, for publication after the FWAC review and approval at a later meeting, as a continuing effort to get the message out that changes are being discussed/ proposed in the park. Terry Ann suggested a workshop with the town council in February. Mike McGovern also encouraged the neighborhood to be invited to meetings during the year to facilitate feedback early in planning process. There was brief discussion re: the RFP process and outlines of town policy regarding these items.

Report re: Council action on Pickleball / Tennis facility usage

An ad hoc committee of 4 has been created by the Town Council to look at options for Pickleball on all town athletic facilities. 2 members from the FWAC, 2 from CE Community Services and the high school athletic director will work on this issue and get back with report to the Town Council on March 1. Terry Ann and Joe volunteered to serve as the two FWAC members.

Consideration of Fee Schedule

Bob began by noting that discussions with Pat Fowler and Jeanne Gross were most helpful in reviewing the fee schedule. It was his suggestion that fees should stay the same going forward for facility usage in 2016 after consulting with Pat and Jeanne. Mike McGovern suggested some modest increases be proposed and delay the implementation until 2017. This would provide the cruise ships with adequate advance notice. Bob will work on a revised proposal for the commission for the January meeting. Terry Ann favored soliciting specific donations for projects in the park. Chris Straw made the following motion: "We, the FWAC, recommend the Town Council explore the issue of "pay and display" in Fort Williams Park to help offset the ongoing expenses of park maintenance and safety improvements." The motion was unanimously approved 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05

Next meeting: Thursday, January 21, 2017 @ time TBD