

FORT WILLIAMS ADVISORY COMMISSION MINUTES  
April 13, 2016, 5:15pm, Fort Williams Park Site walk

Commission members present: Donald Clark, Charles Wilson, Suzanne McGinn, Stephen Lyons, Joe Kozlowski, Mark Russell, Chris Straw

Town Councilor Liaison absent: Jessica Sullivan

Staff Liaison present: Robert Malley

Public members present: Terry Ann Scriven, 18 Old Ocean House Rd: Cape, Deb Cavanaugh, 16 Little John Rd

The following materials were distributed prior to meeting: FWAC meeting agenda – April 13, 2016.

**Bleacher removal project:**

Bob explained that the project is not yet completed. The contractors will finish regarding and seeding the slope at the end of April or early May. Many of the large cement chunks will be removed before grading because a lawnmower will need to mow the slope.

**View Children's Garden/Garden Pond/traverse over adjacent sidewalks**

Walkways will be improved above the Children's Garden likely with the Bleacher project. Folks questioned if the Children's garden plans included improvement of the stone steps down into the garden, and whether there is a plan for handicap access. Children's Garden work starts next week. Bob pointed out that the old sewer covers are for non active sewer lines. Town has maps of the old sewer lines.

Bob mentioned that the two tennis courts will be recoated after July 1. FWAC will have to vote on whether to keep the pickle ball lines. May is the one year evaluation of the pickleball lines on the pond courts. The entire pond stone perimeter is budgeted to be repaired after July 1, 2017.

**Former Entrance (Old Main Gate)**

Currently there are 8 official parking spots. The 2011 FWP Mater Plan Priority 7.1 calls for a plan with 13 spaces, and there is an estimate of \$100,000 to complete this priority.

**Basketball/Tennis Court**

Basketball court is in need of a major repair. Members talked about the possibility of extending the basketball court to accommodate several pickleball courts, which could be done but might be expensive. There was consensus that the tennis court was too narrow to be used as a doubles court.

**Maintenance Building Area parking**

Bob stated that the parking area serves as parking for dog walkers, children's playground and the Bachelors Officers Quarters Buildings. Currently the lot is not paved.

### **Southwest Preserve to Battery Garesche**

Members discussed the dog use on the multipurpose field. There was consensus that dogs should not be on playing fields during the seasons when the fields are actively used for community sports. Observations were made that dog walkers sometimes have dogs off leash outside of the 'off leash' designated area. There is currently limited enforcement of the rule. There is a scoop dog waste event this weekend at the off leash area.

### **Capt. Strout Circle (Portland Head Light) via "The Green"**

Bob recapped the FWF plantings around the circle at the Head Light. He also talked about the 501 3C Light House revenue and how it helps to support the light house and the FWP.

### **Inspect Cliff Walk Safety from the PHL to Battery Knoll**

Bob pointed out the railings installed to date along the Cliff Walk, and he asked that we observe where we might want to install additional fencing along the walk. Members thought the fencing was tasteful, practical and needed. An opening will remain down to the beach at the safest option along the path.

### **Kitty's Point/Interp. Display Panel access**

Members admired the three great interpretive panels located at Kitty's Point. Discussion included better access to this spot, and potentially create handicap access to the Point.

### **Picnic Shelter parking lot**

FWP 2011 Master Plan Priority 8.6 recommends repaving of this lot and adding some sidewalks up to the picnic shelter for improved accessibility. Bob mentioned that the steel girders used to create the picnic shelter were repurposed from some old material from the Fort. A suggestion was made to add an interpretive sign inside shelter highlighting historic material.

### **Sidewalk/steps along former Officers Row**

Sidewalk along Harrison Road has erosion along sloped bank. Members discussed potentially removing the sidewalk completely since Harrison road is right next to sidewalk and the road is closed to car traffic.

### **Goddard Mansion**

Members walked all around the mansion, remarking on the deterioration of the brick and stonework. Joe thought that a renovation of this structure would cost around \$2 million. Steve spoke to Dick Gilbaine, a community member interested in restoring the mansion, and Steve will report on the conversation at April's FWAC meeting.

A couple of members asked Bob about extending the black fencing at the main gate to the Chapel Rd gate along Shore Rd to improve the appearance along Shore Rd. Bob said he would get an estimate.

Walk completed at 6:55pm

Respectively submitted,  
Suzanne McGinn  
FWAC Secretary