

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Fort Williams Park Committee**

Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2019

Present: Jim Walsh (JW), Jim Kerney (JimK), Joe Kozlowski (JK), Ken Pierce (KP), Mark Russell (MR) and Doreen Theriault (DT)

Absent: Suzanne McGinn

Staff: Kathy Raftice (KR), Community Services and Fort Williams Park Director, Andrea Southworth, Friends of Fort Williams Park

Public: Multiple guests from the town

Call to Order: JW called meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The April 18, 2019 draft meeting minutes were approved. (5 - Yes, 0 - No) JK arrived after minutes approved.

Public Comment Opportunity for Discussion of Items Not On the Agenda

JW welcomed the large public group and explained the agenda and process of the meeting. Heidi Hanson did speak and complimented the committee on the work being done at Fort Williams and by the committee. She did not feel the dog discussion should be on the agenda. JW explained that topics on the agenda should be discussed later but thanked her for her comments.

FWPF Update

Andrea Southworth discussed the following:

Planning:

- May 20: Bird walk with Doug Hitchcox from Maine Audubon, 7:00 - 9:00 am.
- May 25: Tree walk with Todd Robbins, 9:00 - 10:30 am.
- June 5: I'm speaking to the Rotary Club about the Ecology Project/invasive plants ahead of their June 21st work day. Workday: Clear invasive plants from the hillside near the firehouse; along Cliffside/Cliff Walk; possibly at Battery Blair.
- Senior Transition Project students (3-4) will work with Alex Donka, May 20-24.
- Various school groups will be in the Children's Garden for programming.
- I'm in communication with Vegetation Control Services about upcoming invasive plant removal/treatments.

Maintenance:

- April 29: 26 volunteers from Waynflete and David and Breda White cleared invasive plants along Cliffside/Cliff Walk.
- Children's Garden: Dead wood in an oak needs to be removed. Dan O'Wrill (Blue Ox) is providing an estimate. Robin's Nest worked at biofilter pond/stream on May 7th.

- Grove of trees: Walked site with Bob Malley (and Kerry and Kathy). Public Works will dig test holes for tree planting sites once a sketch/plan is available from James McCain (who is designing the site). I am getting estimates for repair of the stone retaining wall in the Tree Succession area. The donor has expressed interest in helping to pay for the stone wall repairs. Bob looked at the wall as well and wondered about the possibility of a Park Committee partnership to help fund the repairs. Once I have the overall design from James and estimates for the stone wall repair, I will forward these to the Park Committee.
- Slide hillside:

Bottom of slide: Walked site with Bob, Kerry, and Kathy on April 29th in the morning, and due to safety concerns, the slide and hillside were closed down. Later that day, a crew from Three Stones Landscaping (in-kind donation) hand dug a pit at the bottom of the slide and filled the pit with playground sand. Alex Donka put soil and mulch around the top rim of the slide to repair a tripping hazard. The slide was re-opened later that day. Alex is keeping a written log to monitor the sand.

Hillside: Working with three companies for estimates to repair the hillside, to the east of the slide (between the slide and the tree fort). The hillside is currently closed.

Needed:

1. Remove existing rounded “scrambling” stones.
2. Regrade the ground at the top of the hill to fix the water flow.
3. Install granite steps and rail that curve from near the bottom of the slide to the top of the hill.
4. Place large stones along the steps to prevent the steps/ground from washing out.
5. Place flat granite pieces near the bottom of the slide (east side) to help create a path, direct kids up the steps.
6. Place loam and plants along both sides of the slide.

Estimate from Tamaro Landscaping: Install 15-4' reclaimed granite steps to create a safe way up the slope to the top of the slide. We will use an Old Yankee Style granite step. The steps will be installed with a 12" base of stone below them on fabric to prevent settling over time. Labor and all materials included in the price to complete project: **12,490.00**. Note: Steps cost 6,300.00; we may be able to reduce this cost if we can locate where the existing steps were sourced from.

Remove the stones to the left of the slide and stack to the left of the lookout [tree fort], once the stones are removed we will spread 8 yards of loam on either side of the slide to build up the area for plantings: **\$1325.00**

Estimate from Three Stones Landscaping: Install 15 granite steps with intermittent boulder and cedar edging alongside of granite slide. Creating adjacent planting beds. **\$8610**

Estimate from Grass Brothers: Still waiting on this, but I hope to have an estimate before FWPC meeting.

Current FFWP budget: **\$2000** steps; **\$300** loam/plants.

Send list to Andrea on things to be done in the park during the second week of Senior Transition Week. Visitor to the park suffered injury on the slide and it, the slide, is out of commission at this time.

Consideration of Dogs Off Leash Area Discussion

JW began the discussion by explaining what took place at the March 28th meeting. That was has been determined to be improper notice on the discussion and possibility it went off track from what was listed the committee recognized the importance of revisiting the discussion. JW asked the committee if they wanted to revisit and all agreed yes. JimK commented that he definitely felt it should be discussed and the vote taken at the meeting should be rescinded or nullified. He explained that a lot of time and work back in the fall of 2017 went into determining the off leash area and that he felt committee overstepped on what was asked by Maureen O'Meara. KP agreed with JimK. KR was asked to re-read the email from Maureen O'Meara to clarify what the committee was being asked to review. MR felt committee being asked to give opinion on whether comfortable with position as it was on off leash areas in the fort. March 28th discussion took place and determined that rules of the park were not being adhered to and enforcement is an issue which then led to the vote. JK agreed the discussion went to the enforcement and people not following rules. MR was not in support of the ordinance the way it is written. The sports fields should be off limits any time of the year. He has heard from Little League and others. He's sympathetic and does not think it is healthy and safe and safety in the park is his #1 issue. JimK explained he thought the vote was nullified by JimW. JimW explained it needs to be decided by the committee. JimK made a motion to have the previous vote on changing the off leash area nullified and that the committee will come back later and address the seasonality of dogs on sports fields. JK seconded. Motion was approved with a vote of (5 – Yes, 1 – No).

Public Comment Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

Those who spoke in favor of leaving off leash area as is: Diane Armstrong (suggests more signage, understands how people feel about sports fields), Diane Stern (wanted to know more about incidents at the park, feels things are exaggerated, feels the unleashed area is small in a very big park and should be available for dogs), Roger Rioux (credit to committee on work being done, feels athletic fields need to be protected, some are responsible dog owners but many are not, park belongs to all), Richard Armstrong (dog owners love the park, trying to police one another but difficult, is there a possibility of extending the lower field), Bill Goodykoontz (park rangers need to be able to enforce year round), Heidi Hanson (thanks the committee, enforces the need for transparency and trust, referenced JW email of 4/3 asking for vote from 3/28 be implemented), John King (thanks the committee, feels if you see it scoop it, more self-monitoring needed), Janine Kerry (cares about the park and feels a culture needs to be developed, there is more use and therefore must be methodical in approach, possibility of lower field receptacle for poop bags), Tim Boggs (agree to create dialog, need to build spirit and trust as they did with the CELT process, the more discussion and involvement the better the outcome). JW thanked all for coming to the meeting, and for sharing their concerns and comments.

Update on Pay & Display from Town Council Meeting

JW explained how the Town Council voted unanimously to implement Pay & Display. MR agreed that was ideally the best result. Next steps are the implementation. KR explained that one of Town Council's concerns was with the enforcement and that Town Manager, Matt Sturgis was to set up a meeting with all parties going forward.

Schedule Sub-Committee meetings

Group Use Sub Committee to set meeting. Committee members; Joe Kozlowski, Ken Pierce and Doreen Theriault.

Trolley Fees Sub Committee to schedule meeting. Committee members; Jim Kerney, Mark Russell and Jim Walsh.

Public Comment Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

Jerry Kneller wanted to thank the committee on all the work of Pay & Display. A suggestion for the implementation is the use of the transfer station stickers. He also asks that no signage be displayed regarding the free parking lots as he feels that will lead to over use. Janine Kerry did want to raise concerns with Unified Parking as the vendor for Pay & Display. Roger Rioux again stated he would continue to press the issue of dogs off sports fields. JW did explain that would be on the September agenda. Lauren Springer asks that there be more signs advising the dollar amount of a fine if dog off leash in wrong area.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM

The next meeting will be the Site Walk Thursday, June 20th @ 5:30 pm to meet in the parade parking lot. If any other items to be discussed we can then meet in the Picnic Shelter at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Raftice