

## Fort Williams Park Foundation

### Report to the Fort Williams Park Committee: January 19, 2017

Arboretum Highlights from the past month:

#### Children's Garden

- Sliding Stone Installation: Fabrication completed by Freshwater Stone and site prep/footings installed by L.P. Murray in December. Both will return in early spring to complete the installation.
- Implementation of Safety Action Plan:
  - Tree Lookout Fort; Three Stone Landscape narrowed several gaps to be compliant with code.
  - Woodland Hillside Path up to Tree Lookout Fort: Linkel will return in spring to add a few small flat-topped stones to make the path more continuous and safe.
  - Meadow Tunnel; Linkel Construction recently set several small boulders to provide protective barriers at both sides of the top of the Meadow Tunnel, to serve as a visual and physical barrier to discourage unsafe activity from above.
    - In spring the Foundation will plant larger plants in front of the boulders to reinforce the barrier.
    - In early spring Linkel will return to reset into mortar the small stones around each end of the black plastic culvert, to prevent them from falling.
  - Stone Retaining Edge at base stone steps: The small rock wall was repaired at the base of the steps near the entrance to the gopher tunnel. Linkel will return in spring to mortar the stone.
- Council Ring Engraved Pavers: To raise money for more plants and maintenance, we will run a 5-week paver campaign via MailChimp and Facebook, beginning Friday, Jan 20 and ending Friday, Feb 24. Richardson Monument will engrave the pavers in March, and installation of all pavers sold and engraved since this past fall should occur week of April 17th or 24th, possibly sooner pending weather and Linkel's schedule.

#### Cliff Walk Landscape

- Trail Network: James recently walked the site with Jed Talbot of OBP Trailworks (out of Turner) <https://www.obptrailworks.com/about-1/clients-and-project-partners/>. Jed has extensive trail-building experience and is very interested in working on this project. He and his crew worked on the Great Pond Trail in 2015 w/CELT and the Conservation Commission. This past fall they constructed Eleanor's Trail at Pleasant Hill Preserve for Scarborough Land Trust.
  - Jed will revisit the site soon for further study and measurements, and will have a proposal w/cost estimates by mid-February.
  - We hope to build several of the 8 trail segments this spring.
  - Although we will be paying for professional services, we will also engage volunteers to support this effort.
- Destination Areas: We will also consider OBP Trailworks for constructing three of the four planned destination areas; the so-called 'Oak Dell', 'Sullivan Overlook', and 'DeHart Overlook'. This work consists mostly of leveling grade and setting boulders and reclaimed granite blocks.

### **Annual Appeal**

The Annual Appeal is under way. We anticipate results to be similar to last year.

### **Oral History Project**

We anticipate the Oral History Project will be exhibited at the Thomas Memorial Library in May. A related series of workshops and events around the theme of the fort and its history are planned.

### **Waterfowl Watch**

A winter waterfowl watch was held Jan. 11 at the Portland Head Light. It was lead by Doug Hitchcox, a staff naturalist at Maine Audubon.

### **Garden Tour**

Plans are well under way for the Garden Tour, which will again be held in July this year.