

To: Members of the Cape Elizabeth Town Council

From: Mark Russell, Chair  
Fort Williams Park Committee

Date: February 7, 2017

Re: **FY 2018 Fort Williams Park Proposed Capital Fund Budget (865) Summary**

On behalf of the members of the Fort Williams Park Committee, I am pleased to submit the proposed Fort Williams Park Capital Budget for your consideration and review.

**Misc. Projects TBD by the FWAC (4006) \$15,000**

This appropriation request is both a contingency and an account for minor projects that are not specifically funded. There are over 80 small improvement projects that were proposed in the 2011 update of the Master Plan. The commission is requesting that we be given the opportunity to fund some of those out of this account, since many are minor enhancements of the park infrastructure. In addition, this account may also provide funding for opportunities that are not known at the time of this submittal.

**Powers Road Guardrail Replacement (4015) \$21,000**

The wooden guardrail along the entrance road is starting to succumb to the elements. Several of the posts and rails are showing signs of rot. A majority of the guardrail was installed in 1998, followed by a 100' extension 2011 on the westerly (or main entrance end). It is proposed to replace it with a similar type of material.

**Replacement of Perimeter Fencing (4018)                      \$35,000**

Much of the wire fabric perimeter fencing along Shore Road has been replaced with a fabricated aluminum fence. It is more aesthetically pleasing and has enhanced the Park's appearance, especially at the main entrance. It is proposed to continue the replacement from the current terminus just north of the main entrance to the rear of the Surf Road properties.

**Cliff Walk Safety Improvements (4022)                      \$25,000**

Addressing pedestrian safety on sections of the Cliff Walk was noted by several respondents in the survey that was done as part of the Master Plan Update in 2012. It was recommended in the Master Plan that, "alternatives for aesthetically pleasing edge restraints or other safety options should be evaluated". Projects have been undertaken in the last five fiscal years to install railings on various segments along the Cliff Walk. For FY 2018, it is proposed to continue that program on a segment near the Portland Head Light. The amount budgeted should allow to install approximately 140-150 feet of railing.

**Picnic Shelter Parking Lot Pedestrian Improvements (4026)      \$44,000**

Access out of the parking lot to Battery Knoll is undefined and challenging. It is proposed to install a set of steps and a short section of sidewalk (with a railing) to the crosswalk just north of the parking lot. A guardrail is also proposed along the easterly side of the parking lot to discourage pedestrians from crossing the road along that section.

**Wheatley Road Guardrail (4027)                      \$8,500**

There is a significant drop-off for about 230' on the northerly side of Wheatley Road, or the road that leads up to the overflow parking area by the former fire station. With the opening of Children's Garden, we are now encouraging Garden visitors to park in the overflow area, which has increased the amount of vehicles now transiting the roadway. A wooden guardrail (similar to that along the entrance road) is proposed to be installed to provide a safety barrier.

**Basketball Court Rehabilitation (4030)                      \$65,000**

The surface on the basketball court adjacent to the Parks Maintenance Building is in a poor and unsafe condition. It is proposed to remove (and replace) the existing asphalt and gravel base. The hoops would be reinstalled and a Pickelball lines would be added.

**Overflow Parking Area – ADA Parking (4031) \$15,000**

Three handicap-accessible parking spaces would be created at the overflow parking area. This would provide ADA-accessible parking for the Children’s Garden and for special events.

**Overflow Parking Area (Near former Fire Station) Sidewalk Removal (4032) \$20,000**

There is an existing sidewalk along the southwest edge of the Overflow Parking area. It borders the location of the former bleachers and extends past the Children’s Garden. The walk was originally made of concrete but was paved over several years ago. The pavement is in poor condition and there are several trip hazards along the surface. It was also recently identified as being a safety issue by a Loss Control Consultant from the MMA Risk Pool. At this time, it is proposed to remove the walk and restore the disturbed area with loam and seed. The Committee would then undertake a comprehensive study of pedestrian needs and walkways in the Park in the next Master Plan.

**Battery Blair Retaining Wall Stabilization (4033) \$56,000**

A retaining wall on the southwest side of Battery Blair has shifted. The wall was not part of the original fortification and was installed in the early 1990’s to support fill that was brought in to cover the top of the structure. The wall is leaning outward and needs to be anchored or replaced, according to a structural engineer contracted with to provide remediation options. It is proposed to replace the wall rather than securing the existing wall in place. The proposed appropriation includes engineering/administration and construction.

**Town General Fund (6010) \$9,135**

This is an annual transfer to the general fund to cover administrative time spent on park-related projects by the Director of Public Works and other town staff not accounted for in the operations budget (645). This amount equals 3% of the total budget and applies to all Special Fund budgets.