

Report of the FWPF: Sep 5, 2017

FWPF Board Highlights:

The Board met September 5 for a workshop to jump start development of a Vision Statement for the Foundations. The evening served to integrate new board members with returning ones. It was primarily a brainstorming session and brought out many good ideas.

As a result of our discussions, we discovered one idea we want/need to jump on immediately: a collaborative effort to combat winter moth. We have submitted our ideas to Mark, but to Town Tree Warden and other officials, and CELT, to plan a workday on a strategic date in November to mobilize town residents and other volunteers to band trees in the Park. With CELT as a collaborator, we would propose a second workday in CELT woods.

Arboretum Highlights:

Volunteer Program:

- Several volunteer groups in late July and August: Windsor Mountain International (NH teen camp), TD Bank, and STRIVE (of PSL Services).
- Volunteer Committee: We have recently formed a volunteer committee, which is chaired by new board member, Kim Koehler. Given her years of experience coordinating Garden Tour volunteers and other aspects of the Tour, we can expect great things from Kim and the new committee!
- Adopt-a-Plot Program New Coordinator: New board member, Tom Atwell, is the new coordinator for the program, so that adopters get the ongoing attention and feedback they need to do good work and stay interested. Tom has been a longtime volunteer of ours and has written many articles over the years on invasive plants and the Arboretum Project. Many know him as the Maine Gardener journalist for PPH. He and his wife are avid gardeners and they also garden professionally. He has recently reached out to all adopters to gather their interest and is recruiting additional volunteers to care for open plots.

Children's Garden:

- Sliding Stone: reopened after town insurer recommendations were met. Recommendations included raising access stone, eliminating pinch hazard, providing gripper stones, expanding the landing zone, and installing signage advising proper use.
- Bio-filter Pond & Cascading Stream: Due to lack of summer rain and a leaking skating pond, the entire system has been shut down until we have enough rain to raise the water level in the skating pond, on which the system depends, and until a water level sensor is installed.
 - Skating Pond water retention: Chris Paquette of Robin's Nest - creator of the bio-filter pond and stream – will provide a proposal for improving water retention in the skating pond (hopefully by this weekend).
- Council Ring Pavers: all pavers sold and engraved since spring will be installed early this fall.
- Art in the Garden: a woodland gateway arch made of woven trunks and stems of invasive bittersweet vines was recently created by Allyson West, a local student at the Maine College

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of Art, who teamed up with MECA invasive plant professor, Andrea Southworth, and FWPF staff to cut the invasive vine growing throughout the Park.

- Andrea would like to bring a MECA student to the Garden each summer to create another work of art from repurposed invasive plants.

Cliff Walk Landscape:

- Town Council approved the planned 2017 implementation of hiking trails (6-1/2 of 9 segments), destination areas (3 of 4), and 2 interpretive signs, though OBP Trailworks has recently indicated that the soonest they can get to the work is late October, and possibly not until spring.
 - We are required to return for a TC workshop so they can consider our planned 2018 work to complete the trails and final destination area, Williams Picnic Area.
 - We currently have enough funds to build all the planned site amenities listed above (2017 & 18 plans), as well as planned restoration work in these first two quarters of our current fiscal year.
 - Next round of invasive plant herbicide applications by Vegetation Control Services will be in early November, after volunteers return to cut more plants.

SUMMARY BUDGET 2017 - 2018 (calendar years)	
AVAILABLE CASH BALANCE Aug 30, 2017	\$65,912
TOTAL PLANNED 2017 EXPENSES: Trail Segments (6-1/2 of 9), Destination Areas (3 of 4), Interpretive Signage (2), + Restoration Work	\$55,859
REMAINING CASH AFTER 2017 PHASE I EXPENSES	\$10,053
TOTAL PLANNED 2018 TRAILS & DESTINATIONS EXPENSES (not including restoration)	\$9,429
REMAINING CASH AFTER 2018 Completion of Trails & Destinations	\$624