

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

Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2019

Present: Jim Kerney (Jim K), Joe Kozlowski (JK), Suzanne McGinn (SM), Ken Pierce (KP), Mark Russell (MR), acting chair and Doreen Johnson Theriault (DT)

Absent: Jim Walsh

Staff: Kerry Kertes (KK), Fort Williams Coordinator, Robert Malley (RM) Public Works Director, Kathy Raftice (KR), Community Services and Fort Williams Park Director, Andrea Southworth, Friends of Fort Williams Park

Public: Chris Tullman, CELT

Call to Order: MR called meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The January 17, 2019 draft meeting minutes were approved as amended with correction of name of B2B presenter to Dave Backer. (6 - Yes, 0 - No)

Public Comment Opportunity for Discussion of Items Not On the Agenda
None

FWPF Update

Andrea Southworth discussed the following:

**Friends of Fort Williams Park
Ecology Project Report, 02-12-19**

Planning:

I had a very nice meeting with Kerry Kertes this morning and we decided to work together to keep FFWP, FWPC, Public Works, Community Services... informed of scheduled maintenance, invasives management, volunteer events, etc, with the possibility of Google calendar that could be viewed by all parties. We also discussed the Tom's of Maine volunteer day (May 10). Since this is very early in the season, Kerry, Kathy, and I are going to set-up projects for the volunteers Park-wide. Should be good!

Maintenance:

Cliffside and Cliff Walk Landscape: James McCain and I walked the sites with Dan O'Wril (Blue Ox Maine) in early January to discuss tree pruning/tree health. Dan provided a quote and will start arboriculture work this month or in March. I'll keep everyone (Kerry, Kathy, Bob Malley, FWPC) informed on the dates/times when I know more. There should be minimal disturbance to Cliffside/Cliff Walk as far as visitor use is concerned, however I'd like to discuss safety considerations with Dan and Bob Malley.

Children's Garden: I'm meeting Tammaro Landscaping on February 27 to evaluate the sliding stone hillside: path/steps and loam; also to consider options for a circular pit to be dug at the bottom of the slide (to prevent people from being thrown forward).

Invasive Plant Management:

Cliff Walk Landscape: VCS (Vegetation Control Service) was not able to mow or complete any herbicide treatments along the Cliff Walk (January 14-17) because it was completely treacherous--covered in ice. I am talking with Andrew Priestley of VCS to look at alternative dates and invasive clearing strategies. The mowing equipment is very expensive to move (\$350/hour), and VCS is located in Athol, Massachusetts--mowing may

not be in our budget for this year! Cutting these invasives (mostly honeysuckle) with a chainsaw is an option, according to Andrew. (It's very steep, but he said, "I've seen worse!" Ha!) However, this would leave stumps and the debris would need to be hauled away--not my favorite option, but this is better than nothing. I'd also like to remove the invasives from along the cliff edge before more fencing is added to the Cliff Walk, and the best way to do this is with VCS's mower equipment. I'm working with VCS to try to coordinate their Maine visits for this year so that FFWP, FWPC, CELT, Maine Audubon, and others can benefit. I'll keep everyone updated and informed.

Battery Blair Landscape/Partnership Project: VCS was able to mow and clear invasives January 14-17, thanks to Kerry Kertes, Bob Malley, and all of the Public Works crew for keeping everything running smoothly and everyone safe. Public Works put down sand on steep areas--thank you! Battery Blair looks amazing, and there were a few surprises (like huge areas of cement along Battery Blair that had been covered with bittersweet).

Chris Tullman, CELT

Chris brought forth a discussion on the Cross Town Trail in Fort Williams. CELT is updating maps and the Town Map and the CELT map are different. JimK made a motion to continue the map and trail to Portland Head Light per the B2B path with no more than 10 small markings posted on trees. Seconded by KP. Motion approved. (6 – Yes, 0 – No)

Budget Discussion

Discussion by all on budget for FY20. The "Green" was discussed and removed from FY20 Budget. Work will continue in this area. BM explained that Town Manager, Matt Sturgis will be assisting with looking into Brownfield Grants and Federal Funds to cover some of the cost. Budget accepted as amended, see attached. (6 – Yes, 0 – No)

Other Business Not on the Agenda

JimK updated the committee on the Town Council meeting from Monday, February 11, 2019. B2B pricing agreement will need to be renegotiated at next submitted request in 2020. Matt Sturgis, Town Manager, was in the process of receiving proposals on cost of funding for construction of the pedestrian and parking lot improvements in Fort Williams. He then presented a funding recommendation of 75% from Portland Head Light and 25% from the Fort Williams Park Fund. The Town Council then discussed the amendment to the bus fees, voted and accepted to reduce to \$100 per coach bus for FY20. The council requested additional information from the FWPC for a 3 year plan on increases. Matt Sturgis then presented the bid on the Pay & Display proposal, Council referred this to a workshop scheduled for Monday, March 18th at 6:00 pm and a public hearing in April.

KK discussed the work he has done on signage. He would like input from a small sub-committee through a walk around park. JimK, KP and JK will participate. Information will be shared at next committee meeting.

Public Comment Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM

The next meeting of the full committee will be TBD Cape Elizabeth Community Center.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Raftice