

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Fort Williams Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Present: Jim Kerney (JK), Jon Dienstag (JD), Suzanne McGinn (SM), Lauren Springer (LS) and Doreen Theriault (DT)

Absent: Ken Pierce, Mark Russell

Staff: Chris Cutter (CC), Fort Williams Coordinator, Kathy Raftice (KR), Community Services and Fort Williams Park Director

Call to Order: Substitute Chair, Jim Kerney (JimK) called meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Approval of August 18, 2022 Draft Minutes

Motion by SM to approve the August 18, 2022 draft minutes second by JD, motion passed (4 - Yes, 0 - No). (LS arrived after vote)

Pond RFP – Kick Off – Will Haskell and Guests

Will Haskell, Gorrill Palmer introduced team (Todd Richardson & Andrew Gobel) working with Gorrill Palmer on the pond project. Will shared they will be conducting a survey in early November. JK asked about the need/purpose of the survey. Will explained they will complete a survey of the pond and the area around the pond. They want to determine the water flow, how deep the sediment is, confirm the existing conditions and document any change or deterioration since the older survey on record. Will feels we will need to proceed with survey as updated information is needed. Will shared the main challenge is the water flow into the pond. Discussion around water depth and flow into the pond and the condition of the wall around the pond. Will to revise the scope to what is needed and to check on the ledge bottom. Jay Weiss was introduced and shared his work on the Children's Garden pump and what was done to get the pump working again. Lots of work/hours. He shared there is a lot of growth in the bottom of the pond and the pump is not working now due to low water levels. Committee thanked Jay for his time and hope to have his input as project progresses. Will shared the schedule going forward with the committee. He explained he had reached out to the DEP and they were not interested in the pond as it is a man-made pond. Todd Richardson raised the issue of a well to help with the water in the pond. The other option is to utilize the Town's public water supply. Which option is most feasible needs to be determined? Will is going to reach out to the Historical Society to see if any other photos or information on the pond. JK clarified that this feasibility study should provide options with pricing. Todd Richardson suggests recommendations with prioritization. DT feels the plans and discussion fits the #1 goal which is multi-seasonal use and resident focused. Andrew shared that Dig Safe will be called and then they will do a temperature probe and determine if spring fed. Group will be conducting site visits. KR shared the site walk date for October 20th. Committee and vendor will meet at the

pond at 5:00 pm. Will hopes to have initial information available for the FWPC November meeting.

Powers Road RFP Discussion – Steve Harding & Nikki Conant

KR introduced Steve Harding and Nikki Conant of Sebago Technics. Steve, Nikki, KR & CC walked Powers Road and discussed the areas brought forth in the Master Plan Update and in committee discussions. They are seeking input so they can assist the committee in the development of the RFP. JK shared his main concern is safety. He would like a white line delineating the sidewalk from the roadway. He understands the road curves for very good reason but looking at how it can be improved. CC did share that since he began working here there has not been an accident on Powers Road. KR explained that she shared with Steve & Nikki the want/need to include water, sewer and power if road reconfigured with the understanding this would come at a large cost. JK clarified that to move towards public bathrooms and the Cape Campus this would be needed. Nikki spoke on the width of the road and distances needed to add bike pathways etc. JD asked if the sidewalk could be moved to the side of the guardrail as that is where folks with kids are in the winter months. Committee and guests discussed Powers Road to help clarify what we are looking for. JK feels we need more departments from Town involved as much larger and complex than this committee. KR will reach out to Jay Reynolds, Public Works Director and Steve and Nikki will formulate some direction for the RFP. They will provide points of discussion to go to the Town Manager and Town Council. KR will follow up on the white lines delineating the curbs.

Public Comment Opportunity for Discussion of Items Not on the Agenda – None

Friends of Fort Williams Update

AS not in attendance however her report had been sent out and no questions.

Fort Williams Update – Kathy Raftice

KR brought committee up to date on park. Playground RFP shared, no changes so will go out. KR explained she had talked with Calen Colby and he has volunteered his time to develop a plan for Goddard Mansion. He is excited to give back to the community and will provide options and prices. He will attend the committee's October meeting. ADA accessibility to Ship Cove discussed. JK had done research. This is a shifting rock beach, sewage outlet, no lifeguard and swimming not encouraged. KR shared there is a sign that says "swim at your own risk. KR also shared she had received a call suggesting the platform be highlighted as a viewing area however all pointed out that works unless reserved. There is a turnaround off Powers Road and parking lot close to and water views available. All feel no more needed. Committee discussed the parking around the Public Works building and the playground. All agree more structure to the parking needed taking all users into account. KR solidified the next meeting (Thursday, October 20th) will include a Site Walk, parking can be discussed. Site Walk will begin at 4:00 pm in the Overflow lot, between 4:45 – 5:00 at the Pond, and then our regularly scheduled meeting will follow at 6:00 pm at the Community Center.

Public Comment Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda - None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm. DT motion to adjourn, second by LS, motion passes unanimously, 4 – Yes, 0 – No. (SM had left meeting by then).

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Raftice