

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

Meeting Minutes from Site Walk
Thursday, October 20, 2022

Present: Chair, Ken Pierce (KP), Jon Dienstag (JD), Jim Kerney (Jim K), Mark Russell (MR) and Doreen Theriault (DT)

Absent: Suzanne McGinn and Lauren Springer

Staff: Chris Cutter, Fort Williams Park Coordinator, Kathy Raftice, Community Services and Fort Williams Park Director, and Andrea Southworth, Friends of Fort Williams

Public: Lynn Bailets, Mike Beck and Matt Reiter

Site Walk began @ 4:05 pm

Annual Site Walk Observations

Walk began in the Overflow Parking Lot with observation by KP that Children's Garden looks great.

Proceeded down to the tennis courts. KP pointed out to the group that where the dirt is and where the court needs work. KP feels courts need to be redone hasn't been redone in a long time. JimK feels could be shimmed when group comes to paint in the early spring. KR will speak with vendor and obtain price on needed work. MR shared TBD budget may cover. May be a FY24 budget item if large amount of money.

Next area was a walk by old main gate and up through the Officers Row tree grove. JimK pointed out stumps need to be removed. Possibly could be done by Public Works. KR will speak with Tree Warden and Public Works to see if money allocated or needs to be paid for out of TBD budget.

KR shared work being done at 324 & 326. Preparing for Cape Elizabeth Historical Society.

Pickleball Courts – JimK shared squeegees are without rubber therefore rubbing off paint. KR shared she was told the squeegees were removed, she will have removed. All viewed the bubbled paint and post that had raised. KR explained that the vendor is coming in the spring. JimK feels the courts should have leaves blown off daily by Rangers or Public Works. JimK also shared how the entry gate causes stoppage in games, should be moved. MR shared that future of Master Plan was to add two courts and turn existing, can gates be done then? JimK shared this is in the Cape Campus which is down the road. Popularity may cause earlier consideration.

KP would like to have walkway at edge of Pickleball courts more aesthetically pleasing. Possibly using crushed stone.

Group moved to parking lot by the Public Works buildings and playground. CC explained signs and need for laydown area. JimK feels more defined parking available if Public Works changes some of the area they use for trucks and trailers. Possibly public could park in the laydown area. JD shared there may be enough space if a way to remove the grass in the middle and make spots more defined. KR explained difficult on dirt and plan to

move playground will then change the lot in its entirety. Lots of discussion with no resolution. KR will discuss with Jay Reynolds and see if anything can be done.

Multipurpose field needs some clean up at the end. AS explained work that had been done. MR suggests volunteers coming together to clean.

Some of the stonewall work needs re-patching. KR will look into this as we have money in budget for stonework. We had work done by Picnic Shelter but some remains.

Walk across the Green and checked out the new fencing by the berm. All agreed looks good. JimK shared need to keep manicured to some degree so visual remains.

Discussion on locks on fence gates. KR explained signs will be going up as discussed in previous meeting.

Hardscape at Lighthouse discussed and KR will have Tammaro complete estimate on what is needed.

Group walked the Cliff Walk and observed some of the erosion. CC explained the majority is from the most recent storm. Stone dust will be used to fill in as time allows.

Group chose not to go to Shipcove, Battery Keyes or Goddard Mansion as meeting Will Haskell at Pond for update.

Pond Update from Will Haskell, Gorrill Palmer – discussion around research work done to date. Survey will be done in early November. Trying to determine how deep the sediment is. While doing research hit hard bottom. Possibility of dredging pond to get the depth back. Greens that are growing in the middle? AS explained how earlier when everything was dry you could walk out into the pond. That is when the green began growing. Pond much higher now due to the rain. Will explained unable to determine where water drains to on opposite side of Shore Road however feels things can be done to improve the outlet. Remove the fencing and make it better and safer. JD asked how long it would take to drain the pond. KP feels there should be a regular plan in place to clean the pond...maybe every 10 years. Will explained they will need to check for any contamination. Understands goal is to utilize pond year round so cleaning out vegetation will need to happen. Discussion on where water will come from if not enough naturally entering pond. Will not be using public water as chlorine in the water so more likely installing a well.

Site walk ended at approximately 5:40 pm to resume at 6:00 pm at Community Center.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Raftice