

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

Zoom Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 16, 2020

Present: Jim Kerney (JimK), Suzanne McGinn (SM), Ken Pierce (KP), Mark Russell (MR), Lauren Springer (LS), Doreen Theriault (DT) and Jim Walsh (JW)

Absent: None

Staff: Kathy Raftice (KR), Community Services and Fort Williams Park Director, Andrea Southworth (AS), Friends of Fort Williams Park, Chris Cutter (CC), Fort Williams Park Coordinator, and Jeremy Gabrielson, Town Council Liaison

Call to Order: Jim Kerney called meeting to order at 7:31 pm. (Technical Difficulties with start)

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The June 18, 2020 draft meeting minutes were approved as updates. (7 - Yes, 0 - No)

Public Comment Opportunity for Discussion of Items Not On the Agenda

Roger Rioux, 5 Bridle Path Way, Cape Elizabeth

Roger Rioux asked if the upper tennis courts at Fort Williams could be converted to Pickleball courts only. If that was done he feels the pickleball players would relinquish use of the lower courts going forward. He would like each group to have their own designated areas. There was some discussion about upgrading the area with seating, clearing land etc. JimK shared that pickleball courts are well used and based on discussion a workshop would be beneficial to bring forth pros/cons and provide each group an opportunity to share. KR will schedule a workshop prior to our August monthly meeting.

FWPF Update – Andrea Southworth

VCS: Vegetation Control Service is here to treat some of the invasive plants at the Fort. Black swallowwort is the main target, but they are also treating poison ivy. I've coordinated with Scott Smart and Chris Cutter. VCS will be back again in the fall to clear Japanese knotweed and Asiatic bittersweet.

Volunteers: We are continuing to have volunteer groups at our sites and to clear invasive plants throughout the Park. We follow COVID19 guidelines.

Slide: Installation of the slide extension piece was delayed again, but I hope that it can be finished soon. Discussion took place regarding the slide. JimK felt a timeline needs to be communicated to the vendor, either the slide repairs are completed by September or done for good. JW shared he felt the slide is a focal point for those driving on Shore Road and felt the timeline should be much shorter, complete the repairs in the next 30 days or it will be removed. JimK felt the 30 days may be a problem with contractor schedule. KP asked what the delay has been. AS explained there has been a myriad of issues, she is frustrated as well. KP asked if a deadline would make a difference. AS feels it will. KP made a motion to communicate to the vendor that the slide must be completed by September 30th, MR seconded. Vote passed (6 – Yes, 1 – No). AS will share with vendor.

Tree grove donation: Waiting to meet with the donor and then I will contact the Park Committee. AS suggested trees in the Cliff Walk/Cliff Side area. AS also suggested a stone wall be constructed. JimK shared there is heavy ledge there. MR with the vegetation cannot see the boats, does not want the view blocked. KP asked if the stone wall would replace the rocks that are there and painted with graffiti. AS shared she felt the wall would help with erosion and small trees would do the same, not block the view. SM suggested a lower spot on the sloped area where the berries are as that would not block views. JimK asked that AS come back with detailed plan with respect to stone wall and impact to view, growth and what fits in the area.

Maintenance: Alex Donka and I continue to maintain our sites. I'm very pleased with our progress in the Cliff Walk Landscape. Our restoration strategies have worked amazingly well: Seeds of native plants are already in the soil, and when the invasive plants are cleared and the site is managed correctly, the native plant community thrives (along with birds, insects--many species of wildlife). All is well.

Sign Update – Chris Cutter

CC provided update. Directional signs have been ordered and expected in mid-August. Signage up on all port a johns “use at own risk”. Three dispensers to be installed on the stockade fences. JimK thanked Chris on great job with signage, fort looks fantastic. JW asked about large signs and when those will be updated. KR explained budget approved and will move forward with funds we now have available. KP asked for additional signage at the tennis courts. CC will put another sign up. JW suggested a sign at the bottom of the hill directing folks to the off leash area. He shared that Officer Estes felt a sign to reference would help with the message. CC shared that the dog offenders are repeat offenders and very aware of the rules.

Fort Williams Park Update (Berm update, Pickleball lawn/benches, Bench update) Kathy Raftice

Cliff Walk Fencing (\$105K) – on order expected Aug installation

Approved - Master Plan RFP Vendor – Richarson & Associates

Berm Work – Site work taking place, dig safe and test kits – no further information

Pickleball lawn/benches – nothing budgeted, Master Plan, Pickleball/Tennis agreement. MR shared we need more Pickleball courts. JimK shared area needs review from a big picture viewpoint. KP shared he felt the tennis group will be good with leaving the upper courts for pickleball and lower for tennis. KR clarified that should be discussed in the workshop. JimK feels the lower court to the west needs work. KR explained on a 5 year schedule but she will discuss with Bob Malley. Councilor Gabrielson shared next public works director chosen and will begin on 8/10/20.

Benches – 11 available for purchase/36 on list/back to 2002, working on now

Upper Tennis Court Resurface completed – will wait on painting lines until after our 8/20/20 workshop

Teach In – tonight, Chris is there with Rangers

Discussion regarding LLBean Pop-Up Summer Event at Fort Williams

KR shared the proposal from LL Bean and Town Manager, Matt Sturgis request for the committee to discuss and make a recommendation. KR shared the flyer and proposal to set up in the Ship Cove parking lot on Saturday, August 29th and Sunday, August 30th. LL Bean will make a donation to the fort of \$2500.00. CC suggests a move to the area up by the Children's Garden. KP suggested a more visible spot would be the Parade Grounds. CC shared his concerns with other vendors in the park. SM agreed and had concern with other businesses going forward. Is this where we want to go? JimK felt we may be setting an awkward precedent going forward. LS asked how this benefits the Cape Elizabeth community. Feels the contribution should be more. MR presents long term opportunity for the park as we move forward. LS suggested this should be a more formal scheduled process and presented to all much like the food vendors. JimK concerns that the park can be overcrowded in normal circumstances in the summer. KP feels it does not lock us in to

anything. This is something fun to offer in a very different time. He likes the idea. MR thinks this is a big deal and the goal is to get park to pay for itself. Should be park of conversations going forward. LS concern is that the fee may only provide the opportunity to the larger businesses. SM feels this should be a discussion that takes place during the Master Plan Update and feels we need to seek community input. JimK shared this is a special time and provides an opportunity to do something different. LS uneasy about encouraging people to come together during these times however is a creative way to bring in some revenue. KP made a motion to allow for this one time, unique situation while advising not locked in to anything going further. MR seconded. Vote passed (4 – Yes, 2 – No) JW recused himself from the discussion and vote.

Town Council Meeting Coverage Assignment & Liaison Update

Councilor Gabrielson shared the favorable vote on the recommendation from the committee of Richardson & Associates as the vendor for the Master Plan Update. JimK thanked Councilor Gabrielson on his comments to the council and his support throughout the process.

Public Comment Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

None

MR did want to mention and emphasize the exceptional work and dedication of retiring Public Works Director, Bob Malley. Bob's efforts in the park have been extraordinary and he will be missed. He thanked JimK for the letter in the Cape Courier and felt the letter spoke volumes for all Bob has done.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM

Next Meeting: Workshop Thursday, August 20 @ 6:00 pm. Regular monthly meeting Thursday, August 20 @ 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Raftice