

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: September 22, 2016

3:00 PM

Pilgrims' First Landing Park: Site Visit

Meeting Called to Order at 3:05 PM

Present: Bill Docker, Anika Costa, Allan MacKinnon, Lori Meads (Seamen's Bank), Eric Larsen (DPW), Frank Vasello, Curtis Balom, Katy Ward (Provincetown Banner, arrived 3:15)

Excused Absence: N/A

Absent: No absences

Move to Accept Minutes: N/A

Public Statements: None

Financial Report: N/A

This meeting was a site visit to review and discuss the potential plans for the park area at the circle at the end of Commercial Street, known as "Pilgrims' First Landing Park" in anticipation of a refurbishment of the area for the "Provincetown 400" Events in 2020.

- i. L. Meads reintroduced and briefed the committee on a number of Pilgrims' First Landing Park issues.
 1. Working on getting funding from VSB and other sources.
 2. B. Docker mentioned current Beautification Committee funding from Stop & Shop. Question was raised to apply for an additional grant from S&S for this specific project.
 3. Question was raised if there might be funding from the Descendants of the Mayflower group?
 4. Question was raised if the BC should earmark some of their budget for the initial site plan to begin this process. (No vote taken.)
 5. L. Meads has been contacted by a landscape architect/designer interested in creating design for the park, possibly gratis.
 6. Waiting for final answer on land transfer from the Commonwealth before any work can start (the back-and-forth with state has continued for a decade but likely very near the end).
 7. No funding currently because there are no more granite stones (the sale of which were the source of funding for the past 18 years).
 8. L. Meads noted there are 60+ 2x2-foot pavers already sold and ready to be installed (with a contribution of \$500 each by donors) .
 9. Park has been used as the site of a range of event types, including weddings and memorial services.
 10. Cape Cod Stone has handled all stone work, including installs.

11. Grant writing (except for possible Stop & Shop grant application) for funding will go through L. Meads or the soon-to-be-named 400 executive director.
- ii. Group discussed needs to be prepared for the transfer of site responsibility.
1. E. Larsen: Noted need for plot plan and can help with that by talking to District 5 to allow access prior to the handoff of the area. Eric will work on a.) DOT Access Agreement; b.) Plot Plan for the area; c.) Assessment of condition of current well at cost of approximately \$1200; d.) Assessment of current condition of lighting from town electrical (Quahog) at a cost of approximately \$500. Who will pay these costs was undetermined.
 2. J. Krajovic: Noted that shore juniper or mugo pines might be a good addition to the park.
 3. J. Krajovic and F. Vasello: Both feel that we should be cautious on site design; gratis in some cases could mean lower quality.
 4. J. Krajovic and E. Larsen: Offered the thought that current lighting can be replaced with the solar-powered lighting being used throughout town. (Current solar lights are approximately \$200 each and can be installed by DPW.)
 5. Group discussed possibility of using smaller pavers rather than one-foot square or two-foot square granite; these could be used to line walkways or encircle rotary so ADA requirements would not be impacted.
 6. J. Krajovic feels that selective thinning and pruning of existing trees and shrubs at the park might help to increase and protect the view-through while improving the look of the site with little expense.
 7. Group discussed what type of plants might work. Harsh environmental conditions need to be taken into consideration.
 8. L. Meads noted that a full irrigation system is installed at the park. B. Docker asked whether DPW can assess the current condition of the system.
 9. Group discussed Conservation Commission requirements, which must be met.
 10. Group discussed other departments, committees, commissions, etc. with which to meet, including Town Manager, Town Planner, Historical Commission, 400 Committee and Exec. Director (or any other concerned town entity).
 11. Reporter arrives: B. Docker briefed the reporter on conversation to this point and noted that we are just in a pre-planning/brainstorming phase, i.e., no decisions are being made, and the purpose of the meeting is to start a discussion.
 12. L. Meads is possibly seeking funding from outside of town, but nothing can happen until the transfer complete. Transfer was originally expected in the middle of the summer, but the schedule seems to be stretching. It's a town/state issue, outside of the control of anyone on committee.

13. B. Docker: Where will the money come from? What involvement is possible from E. Larsen's team?
14. E. Larsen: DPW has the people and machinery to take care of the park, but this may move slowly if the transfer happens in the summer. Much better if they are able to work during off-season (rather than high-season).
15. J. Krajovic, A. MacKinnon: Much can be done with good, selective thinning. (Trees in the middle of the view were noted as examples.)
16. B. Docker: Should there be an RFP for design? (E. Larsen noted that the cost is likely lower than \$10,000, the price point that requires an RFP.)
17. E. Larsen: Emphasized the need for a site plan to determine mean high water, breakwater, edge of pavement, shrubs, trees, etc.
18. A. MacKinnon: We should interview the landscape architect and invite to a future meeting.
19. E. Larsen estimated rough costs of determining where well and wiring is to give the group a sense of how quickly the costs can add up.
20. B. Docker: Is state funding possible through Sarah Peake and Dan Wolf's offices, or other Massachusetts funding sources? (This is still being considered. Docker to create a letter to the offices of Peake, Wolf and Governor for BC approval at an upcoming meeting.)
21. J. Krajovic: Property must be transferred or get approval for access. Lori and Eric said the state has said to wait.
22. L. Meads: Site originally designed by Bill Whitney (who also did Bus Stop park per B. Docker).
23. B. Docker: Mentioned that the town planner needs to be involved in the design of the site; this will be pursued once transfer of site responsibility is complete.
24. Group noted that the current plants are thriving in spite of the warm, dry summer.
25. Group discussed possibility of repaving the walkway areas.
26. B. Docker: Asked about Provincetown Inn support. L. Meads noted that they've bought stones but have many other priorities because of the extent of their property.
27. Some group concern that Plymouth is getting so much notice when two key events of the 1620 Mayflower landing actually happened at or near First Landing Park.
28. When people call to ask about funding it might help to tell them to call the state; may help raise awareness.
29. Discussed the benches and possibility of new benches with backs (the original were all sold at the initial presentation of the plan).
30. A. MacKinnon: Concerned with raising money by selling more stones which might turn the look of the park into that of a parking lot.
31. J. Krajovic, F. Vasello: Should consider limiting the addition of hardscape (perhaps reduce size of memorial pavers) and uncomfortable slab benches.

32. E. Larsen: Should get this project on the agenda for spring 2017 Town Meeting to discuss financing. (If committee decides not ready for meeting, it can pull from Town Meeting Agenda at last minute, but it is good to be on agenda.)
 33. A. Costa: Will we have the internal sidewalk? Can we use stones there?
 34. A. Costa: We should write a letter to the state to ask for funding or transfer?
F. Vasello in agreement.
 35. B. Docker: Will new 2020 group or exec director allow naming opportunities? (L. Meads thinks this is dependent on the design.)
 36. F. Vasello: Making plants memorials can be an issue. If plant dies, people expect something to be replanted. Can be costly.
 37. L. Meads: Security of signage must be considered; people have stolen signs from the area.
 38. L. Meads, E. Larsen, B. Docker: Flag pole lighting is important, must remain lit. (Problems this year when the flagpole light was out.)
- iii. K. Ward spoke with B. Docker and J. Krajovic to clarify names and details.

Adjourned at 3:50 PM. F. Vasello motioned; A. MacKinnon second. Unanimous vote to adjourn meeting.

The next meeting of the Provincetown Beautification Committee will be held:
Wednesday, October, 5, 2016 at 3:30 P.M. in Caucus Room at Town Hall. 260
Commercial St., Provincetown, MA

Respectfully submitted,
Curtis Balom, Committee Clerk