

# Simpsons Point Public Access Facility Citizen's Advisory Committee

## MINUTES

October 7, 2021, 6 p.m.

**Members Present:** Marko Melendy (RCWC), James Ecker (Citizen), Jon Muench (Citizen), Will Wilkoff (RCWC), Mike Lyne (BRC), Anne Banks (Citizen)

**Members Absent:** Bike and Pedestrian Committee Member

**Town Councilor Present:** Steve Walker (District 2) (Chair) Dan Ankles (At Large)

**Staff Present:** Dan Devereaux (Coastal Resources Manager), Dan Sylvain (Harbormaster), Tom Farrell (Parks & Recreation) Ben Gould (Park Ranger)

**Minutes: (:38)** Minutes Accepted Unanimously.

**Correspondence: (1:35)** Walker stated the Committee has received correspondence from two individuals that are concerned with parking and increased traffic and the greater Penneville neighborhood. Devereaux explained that because of the fishing fowling and navigation rights in the intertidal zone directing citizens to certain areas to fish is not within the Towns rights.

### 1. Finalize Draft Report (2:45)

Lyne asks that we correct the spelling grammatical errors. Lyne suggested under the use section there should be consideration for bank fishing. Lyne stated that if swimming is allowed there should be some mention and recognition in the report that bank fishing does occur at the site. Lyne suggested that adding signage in the kiosk may be a soft approach to inform visitors that BOTH activities occur at the site.

Ecker pointed there is little the town can do regarding fishing on site.

Devereaux suggests using the kiosk and signage to inform the public.

Anne Banks stated that she has seen some conflict with fishing in the past but that it is impossible to regulate all the different uses.

Melendy suggests using different wording to address issues surrounding dogs of leash.

Ecker suggests that the recommendation sections of the report need to have more clear wording. Ecker explains his approach to the report.

Ecker to supply suggested language to Deveraux and Walker to be incorporated into the report and sent back out to the members for review.

Ecker asks consideration to be given in the report to include a recommendation that would develop a detailed plan or design for public access to the beach on the newly acquired town property. The design should keep with character of existing neighborhood. Walker agreed.

Muench, whose property abuts the town owned parcel, stated that the property should be maintained as close as possible to what currently exists. He stated that increased development on the site could result in increased

trespassing on his property. Ecker stated that he had brought this up because he was unclear on the report recommendations.

Farrell reviewed the task from the last meeting (kiosk and bike racks relocated to the town property). He also indicated that a citizen would like to donate a bench to be installed somewhere on the property. Farrell indicated that he was tasked with coming up with a cost of repairs. He is unsure of the other improvements and will need to know at what scale.

Ecker stated that he understood that the bike racks and kiosk would be relocated but was unaware of trail development and direct access to the water from that site.

Walker reiterated that since the town has purchased the property a few years ago, there has always been a goal of supplying public access to the gravel beach below.

Melendy agreed that since the purchase of the property there has been discussion on how the town could develop public water access from the property.

Muench stated that the beach is very small, and he believes that if the public is encouraged to use this area as access it will lead to more intertidal trespassing. He also mentioned that the bank is steep and unstable, and he doesn't believe that it would support much activity without damaging the bluffs.

Ankles stated that he is in support of installing a properly sited bench on the property, and that he had always assumed, based on previous meetings, that the property would be used to help alleviate some of the visitor water access congestion at the end of the road.

Ecker suggests that if the town is going to encourage people to use the property there needs to be a detailed plan on how people get down to the beach.

Anne Banks suggested private property signage and/or fencing of some sort to discourage the public from trespassing.

Ankles suggested we use Cedar Beach as example.

Ecker pointed out the recommendations do indicate that staff should work with abutting landowners to develop private property signage or fencing.

Walker reiterated that survey has been recommended to help determine property lines, which will help the town develop appropriate signage siting that is consistent with abutting landowner suggestions and the character of the neighborhood.

Walker reiterated the process and stated that a second draft that clarifies the charges and incorporates the suggestions noted tonight would be sent out to the members for any additional comments.

Farrell asks for clarification on facility/site specific budgets. He stated based on the information from tonight's meeting he would likely prepare a report that includes just a few line items, which would include staff time spent at the site and some ongoing maintenance, however he would note in the recommended budget that there is additional consideration of the development of the town owned parcel and that the town will work with abutters on any new features proposed for the site and once a plan was approved he would then submit a more detailed budget with those improvement cost added.

Walker provided budget clarification.

Lyne asked for clarification from Farrell on the existing kiosk location and if it is possible to move it to an area at the end of the road where it wouldn't succumb to damage from town and trash maintenance vehicles, possibly on the Ford property.

Farrell suggests that the town do some work on marking ALL the property lines. Furthermore he states that the Fords have been gracious for many years allowing the public to use a portion of their property, however he stated that having the property boundaries marked similar to how the town of Harpswell has marked Cedar Beach.

Melendy suggested using softer signage like "END OF TOWN WAY".

Ecker reiterated that town staff should work with both abutting landowners to develop tailored messaging that discourages the public from using their private property.

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:00 PM