

Meeting Notes

Date: 9/14/2023

Committee: Parks Commission

5:30pm-6:42pm

Attendees (members)

David Wrocklage (DW)

Sarah Phillips (SP)

~~Robert McDonough (RM)~~

Gail Turner (GT)

Maureen Bilodeau (MB)

~~John Corgan (JC)~~

Susan Foster (SF)

Guests

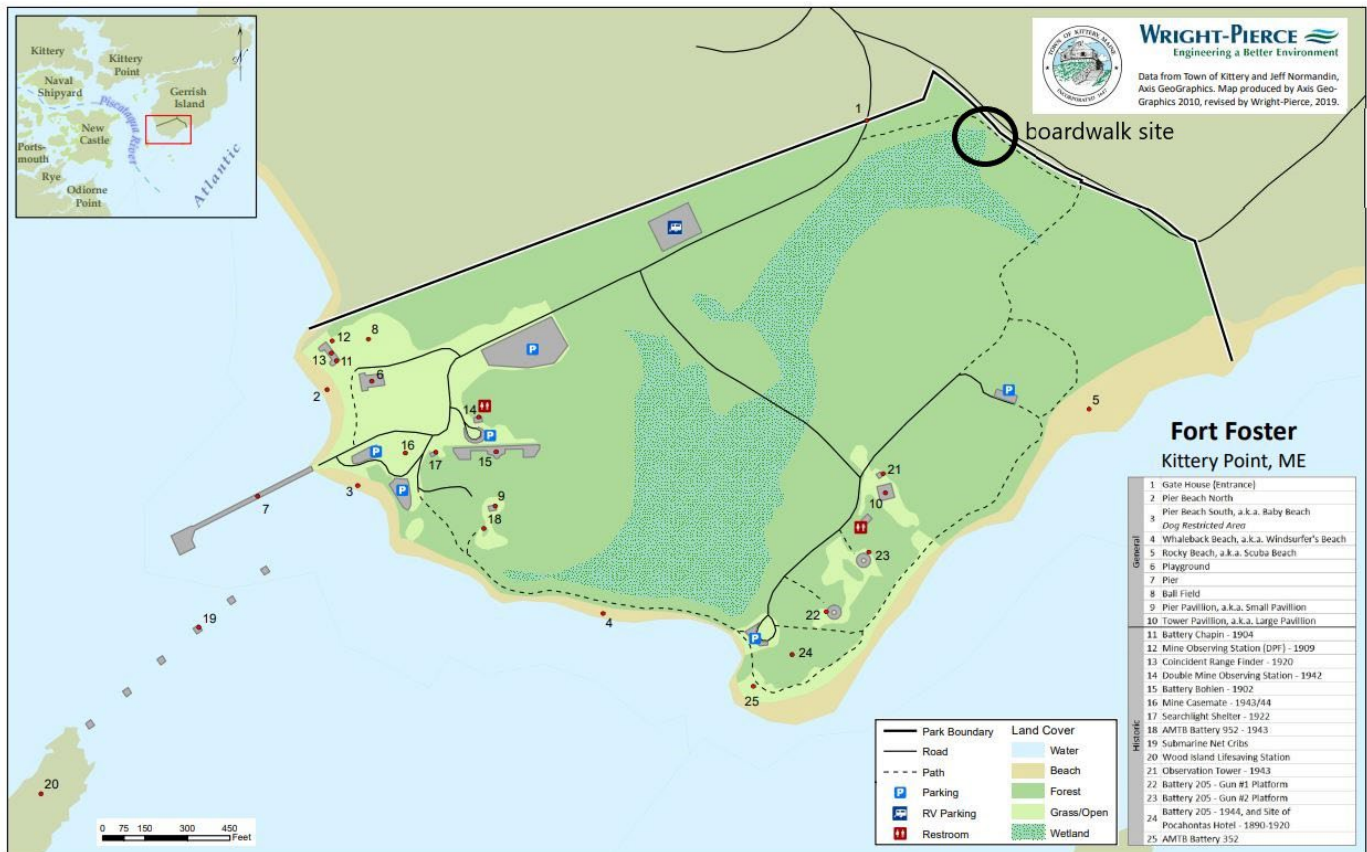
Kendra Amaral (via Zoom), Dave Rich

Minutes:

1. Approved minutes w/ no changes
2. Fort Foster boardwalk installation will be in the fall.
 - a. Need to plan a date – mainly between DW, RM, and JC.
 - b. DW will get permission from FF neighbor Warren Delano for driveway access to unload materials.
 - c. MB can also contact local Girl Scout troop for help.
 - d. Clarified that this is over a small culvert on the trail by the fence – NOT over the wetlands area (see image at end of document).
3. Discussed parking at Seapoint beach
 - a. Resident spots taken by non-resident vehicles.
 - b. DW overheard non-resident claim she would rather risk the \$50 fine than park in non-resident area.
 - c. DW recommended to raise fine to discourage this thought. KA clarified that the entire town parking fines would have to increase, not just Seapoint.
 - d. KA noted we are below the state-established ceiling for parking fines. There is an Ad Hoc Traffic + Parking Committee being established that would cover such topics within the town.
4. Fort Foster '23 Season
 - a. Staffing was a huge issue for second year.
 - i. KA and Mark Leavitt (FF gate attendant) discussed ideas to reduce staffing issues such as:
 1. Closing the park earlier (6pm)
 2. Shortening the season (mid-June – Labor Day)
 - ii. Pay rates were raised to \$21/hr (starting) this season. Return workers get raises.
 1. MB suggested different rates for gate attendant vs park staff due to the extra labor the park staff endures.
 - iii. Question was raised on where the FF jobs were posted. Kendra gave a list including LinkedIn, college job boards, Traip Academy, town website, etc.
 1. SF noted she will help put the word out next year – is confident she can find people willing to work.
 2. SF + MB suggested adding advertisements to local paper (Sentinel) and Facebook.
 3. SP suggested posted around town at library + KCC as well as town email system.
 - b. Rates were discussed – raising rates for future seasons to off-set increased costs in staffing, credit card fees, and
 - i. Kendra noted she was ok to raise fees for non-resident passes but would like to keep resident as-is.
 - ii. MB + DW suggested to raise pavilion rental fees as well due to the number of parties not paying gate fees like they should.

1. DW suggests increase in fees could cover a number of cars entry fee.
- iii. Parks Commission should discuss/propose rate increase for '24 season – for day passes, season passes, and pavilion rentals (small and large).
- c. Parking at FF
 - i. DR brought up off-season parking and the need to offer parking closer to the water. He came up with a new gate placement plan that allows the lower lot to be open during off-season.
 - ii. DR also brought up the parking proposal that was presented to the PC last season. PC should re-review some of the suggestions this off-season.
- d. MB mentioned she doesn't think fishing should be allowed off the pier.
5. Fall Walk-Through at Fort Foster
 - a. Need to schedule for next month – KA and DR said they would attend. Weekday?

Adjourned at 6:42pm.



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