

CDAC

Agenda 10/9/24

Attending: Lissa Widoff, Prentice Grassi, Steve Bennett, Sean Murphy, Laura Greely

1. Sean - updates on site visit
2. MDOT - Village bridge project/Village Improvement Grant
3. Other park models to explore:
 - a. Mill Park Augusta
 - b. Wetland park Bowdoinham
4. Talking to get Landscape Architects
5. November community meeting
 - a. Set date
 - b. Substance
6. Dec. grant deadline -

Minutes

1. Site Visit - Sean described his recent visit to the site, to examine the historic abutments on Sandy Stream reported on by Haley-Ward. He said most of the site is very hard to access with overgrown Japanese knotweed in places. In examining the abutments he said it was hard to tell if there had been a mill or bridge, almost looks like a cellar on either side of the stream. He accessed that area most easily via the Knox portion of the lot and walked to the stream. Abutments are less than 50 feet from where boundary was marked and at least 10 feet high. He also found some rock that looks like it may have been chipped rock on rock, but it would require an archaeologist to know the history. Steve mentioned someone who lives in Belfast who is an archaeologist and used to live in Montville who might be amenable to taking a look. Be interesting to know what that site was. Actions:
 - a. Sean will reach out to Freedom Historical Society and Knox Historical Society to see what he can find out about the abutments.
 - b. We should consider making this historical site part of the trail.
 - c. Bagley owns the side that is not on our Knox side, maybe he can agree to some public access on that side.
2. MDOT/bridge
 - a. Brian Nichols bridge construction, met with Selectboard 2 weeks ago. Steve followed up with Brian for more info.
 - b. Bridge is now 20 feet W, will be 28 feet wide curb to curb as basic rebuild
 - c. There are two options DOT is considering to accommodate a sidewalk (paid for by DOT)
 - i. Sidewalk, attached to one side of bridge, 5 - 6 extra feet, curb only 7-9 inches between sidewalk and bridge. Seems like very low curb, sidewalk would be at same level as bridge

- ii. Second option is a Stand-alone bridge, separate from traffic bridge. The separate bridge would be 10 feet wide. Would assume that someone could use it to ride a bike. Nichols was concerned about grange hall and whether a wider bridge might impact their access somehow. This led to some speculation about the condition of the grange, and whether an even longer sidewalk bridge might be possible that goes all the way to Main St.
- iii. Steve will follow-up to find out what else we need to do to keep our ideas on the table and whether a Village Improvement grant would be helpful for our goals
- iv. Steve will also raise with MDOT the possibility of integrating a cross-walk in the village to both facilitate access between Gen store/Cannery Lot and Main Street for walking.

3. Research and planning for next grant and steps

- a. Lissa will reach out to two other towns, Nowdoinham and Augusta, that might have parks that are similar to what we envision here.
- b. Lissa will talk to Landscape architects about site planning costs and options, to scope out prospective costs. Can apply some of our existing funding for this

4. November mtg

- a. Decided on Nov 20th at 6 pm for the community mtg - **LOCATION?**
- b. A mailing will go out after next selectboard approval Oct. 21
- c. Lissa will write up a short summary of the meeting for special mailing or next newsletter or both
- d. Lissa will draft a flyer that can be handed out on election day
- e. Notice in newspaper?
- f. Invite
 - i. Everyone in town
 - ii. Special invites to - Selectboard, Planning Board, Public works, Historical soc.
 - iii. Haley - Ward - Lissa will invite Johanna S.
- g. Draft script for the presentation
 - i. History of the site, cannery, skidgels, cleanup - Steve (working history timeline [here](#))
 - ii. Research and planning so far - survey of preferences (2021), CRP and Community Action Grant/ site assessment - Lissa
 - iii. Haley-Ward -overview of the site - results
 - iv. Lissa - synthesis and interconnections with other community needs
 - a. MDOT bridge
 - b. Downtown /event parking
 - c. Village Walkability
 - d. Uncertainty about Gen store
 - v. Current vision and Q+A - Lissa facilitate -
 - vi. Next steps/ recruit more volunteers?

