

Simpsons Point Public Access Facility Citizen's Advisory Committee

MINUTES

September 30, 2021, 6 p.m.

Members Present: Marko Melendy (RCWC), James Ecker (Citizen), Jon Muench (Citizen), Will Wilkoff (RCWC)

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: (:58) Ecker suggested clarifying the intent of striping on the Simpsons Point Rd. Should parking area. Minutes accepted as amended.

Correspondence: (1:50) Tom Farrell received a phone call from Councilor Wilson with a private citizen request to install a commemorative bench in the Simpsons point area. Farrell advised that there are several private citizen donations of commemorative benches in other town parks. Walker confirms that the suggested placing is on the Town Property, not within the right of way.

1. Educational Programs (4:40)

Walker provided a brief explanation of the Town Council charge indicating that the SPCAC was modeled charges were modeled after the much more complex Mere Point Boat Launch Facility. Walker suggested using on site kiosks and focusing on website information on Simpsons Point Landing. Melendy suggested any new information on the site be incorporated in the next Rivers and Coastal Waters Commission access guide. Councilor Ankles also suggested that adding information to existing publications on Simpsons Point landing versus creating an entire new document seems more appropriate for a facility of this size and design. The group agreed that content of the kiosks should included a map of the existing property. Farrell suggests moving the current kiosk to the town's property that fronts the Simpson Point Rd. Its current location in the turnaround makes it susceptible to continued damage from vehicles using the turnaround area. Ecker concurs and states that relocation to the town's property would also help educate people on the boundaries of the more recently purchased town property. Wilkoff suggest that there should be some detailed planning in how the amenities i.e. bike racks, stairs to the beach, and kiosks, should be optimized in the overall design of the property. He suggests this should be a recommendation from the SPCAC. Melendy suggests looking at other kiosk designs and templates that would fit this facility. The town has 4 kiosks designs it uses in its other facilities depending on facility usage. Ecker states that any maps included should represent the boundaries and recommendations of the abutting property owners.

2. Neighborhood Traffic Impacts (16:50)

Walker explained the charge of the town council and that he believes that a discussion surrounding traffic impacts to the neighborhood is appropriate discussion amongst the SPCAC members. Devereaux explained the recent traffic study, easterly of Pennell Way, that was conducted by Ryan Barnes, the town engineer. The report did not indicate speeding was an issue in the area from Pennell

Way to Simpsons Point Landing (report attached) 170 cars passed and the average speed was 24MPH on the Labor Day weekend. Ecker refers to a later report conducted during the week in July 2020 where 320 cars were analyzed, and the average speed was 32MPH (report attached). Ecker argues the studies conducted by the town do not include bicycles and pedestrians, if this traffic was included it would increase the total traffic significantly, as much as 20% in the July 20 study. He suggests that these studies rely solely on vehicular traffic. If the situation doesn't warrant a MDOT speed change, and often speed reduction zones don't solve problems with speeders, there should be consideration given to implementation of traffic calming approaches on all of Simpsons Point Road. Wilkoff, an active bicyclist, states he rides Simpsons Point Road from October to May every year and hasn't had any problems with vehicular traffic. Walker suggests this may be something the Bike & Pedestrian Committee to take up. Melendy inquired about traffic metrics for other town facilities and how movement of the public is managed and planned at those facilities. He stated that there seems to be some of the same overcrowding at other town parks and facilities. Melendy states that he would like to see the same level a public safety detail at all town parks and facilities. Ecker suggests that there be consideration by the town to the local bicycle & pedestrian plan and to some of the traffic calming techniques offered up by the Bicycle Coalition of Maine. He also suggests that contacting the Greater Portland Council of Governments who have the capacity to evaluate roads based on total usage versus just vehicle traffic. There was continued discussion amongst members surrounding different approaches to traffic calming applications along certain portions of the road. Ecker suggests the town delegate planning or engineering staff to further evaluate traffic calming approaches on Simpsons Point Road and throughout the entire Penneville neighborhood.

3. Annual Budget (46:28)

Walker explained the SPCAC charge and again pointed out the SPCAC was modeled after Mere Point Boat Launch a more complex facility than Simpsons Point. Farrell reported that he will provide budget numbers, as well as daily cost associated with the facility at the next meeting. This will include additional costs of improvements suggested by the SPCAC i.e., kiosks, bike racks, additional signage etc. Farrell explained how he determines some of these daily expenses. Walker requested that a one-page budget be provided of ongoing cost and one time cost. He also suggests a map be provided showing the proposed location of kiosks and bike racks.

4. New Business: (51:30)

- Public Input on SPCAC Report: Walker discussed the dissemination of the SPCAC report to the Council and inquired on whether this allows enough public input. Noting that SPCAC meetings have been open to the public. Ankles stated that there is likely more opportunity for public engagement at the council level.
- Annual Stewardship: Should the SPCAC reconvene in a year to address ongoing issues or should these issues be better handled at the Rivers and Coastal Waters Commission (RCWC) or Brunswick Recreation Commission (BRC). Melendy stated that the River and Coastal Waters Commission address concerns from residents on water access facilities across town. Ankles concurred that the RCWC would be an appropriate commission, however he emphasized the importance of the RCWC and BRC communicating with each other on the citizen concerns.
- Facility Signage: Melendy suggested that signage be more coordinated, Devereaux concurs. Farrell suggest installing one sign with all the rules and regulations listed on that sign. Walker suggested including this in the final report back to the council.

5. Old Business: NONE

Meeting Adjourned at 7:01

MEETING ADJOURNED 7:00 PM