

Town of Mount Desert Promenade Park Design Committee Meeting
October 4, 2018, 9am
Town of Mount Desert Town Office Meeting Room

Minutes/Notes

Attending: Nancy Ho; Donald Graves; Martha Dudman; Dan McKay; Jackie Hewett; Katrina Carter; Gordon Beck; Sam Shaw; Averel Wilson (phone); Minot Weld (phone); Douglas Cornman (phone); Travis Noyes (CES); Todd Richardson (Richardson & Assoc. – phone)

Todd Richardson began the meeting by presenting the revised hybrid park design the Committee requested at its last meeting. This included the basic layout from original Plan A plus the Sea Street sitting area shown on Plan B and the pavilion as shown on the original P2 design. It also added some sitting areas within the park that were reminiscent of those shown on the original B design. Trees were shown along the edge of the park that borders the Gray Cow Parking Lot. Sam Shaw expressed concern that too many trees would block visual access to the park and beyond. It was decided that some trees would be good but not so many that they totally obscured the park and the view from Main Street and the parking lot.

There was Committee agreement that this was the preferred concept.

Todd then reviewed the two alternative pavilion designs discussed at our last meeting and gave basic cost estimates for each. The stone pavilion was estimated to cost between \$75,000 and \$100,000 to construct and the Japanese inspired pavilion was estimated at between \$50,000 and \$75,000 to construct.

The life of different pavilion materials was discussed as well as future maintenance needs and general visual appeal. Various options for locating the pavilion out over the top of the slope and their costs and visual implications were considered. It was determined that keeping the pavilion firmly on the existing flat space would be cheaper than using a cantilevered alternative. The Committee decided that the stone pavilion design as shown on P2 was their preferred option. In addition, they decided that the pavilion should not be cantilevered but could be situated close to the edge of the bluff if no significant engineering was involved. The Committee also suggested looking into utilizing a bit more of the parking lot to give the pavilion more separation from the lot. This would most likely require some realignment of the parking spaces in the lot.

A discussion of potential park materials began and included the following elements:

Walkways: After some discussion, it was decided that concrete was the preferred option for park walkways. This was preferred over asphalt, stone dust or some form of pavers. However, CES will investigate the “bouncy” asphalt that Martha Dudman mentioned. Costs of alternative materials will be provided for comparison.

Security fencing: Three types of fencing were discussed, simple ornamental, chain link and invisible mesh. All could be painted black. After some discussion, simple ornamental fencing was

chosen, but the Committee was open to choosing a different option if pricing became an issue. Todd noted that the fencing would be partially obscured by plants.

Lighting: Todd recommended bollard lights and provided three options. The Committee chose metal bollards and recommended that they match the ones in the harbor. Todd and Travis will investigate these lights and report back concerning their availability, cost and suitability for the purpose. These lights would also be used on the stairs down to the Cranberry Island Parking Lot. Todd also noted that lighting in the pavilion would be attached to the ceiling within the beams.

Benches: Todd introduced three types of benches, stone blocks, stone supports with a wooden seat and traditional wooden benches with backs. The Committee chose the stone support with wooden seats as their preferred option. However, although not shown by Todd, the Committee asked for most of these benches to have backs. Todd said this could be done.

Stairs: The Committee decided that the stairs from Sea Street up to the park should be stone. The Committee also preferred stone for the steps to the Cranberry Island Parking Lot but realized the cost of this option may be prohibitive. If the cost precludes the use of stone, wooden steps will be used. Another option discussed was the use of stone just at the top portion of the stairs adjacent to the pavilion with wood being used for the lower sections. Materials for the flat walkways within these stairs was discussed. The Committee prefers to use the same material as in the park but again recognized that the cost of concrete may be too high.

Plants: Todd recommends using all low maintenance native plants for the park. These included Blueberry, Dwarf Winterberry, Bayberry, Bearberry, Huckleberry, Bottlebrush and several others. The Committee was in general agreement about this direction however, Gordon suggested running these choices before the Garden Club. Nancy asked about using Climbing Hydrangeas. Todd noted that these were more of a formal garden choice but could be used if the Committee desired. Todd recommended using a native tree such as Red Maple for the tree border. Nancy asked if a spring flowering tree could be used.

A short discussion of issues around plant growth on the bank below the park followed. Jackie will discuss this issue with Tony Smith. The small seating area proposed on Sea Street was also discussed. Some members of the Committee thought a curved bench along the perimeter of the area might be a good option and the floor might mirror the floor in the pavilion. These ideas will be explored in more detail at a future meeting.

CES and Richardson will do additional design work on the stairs and the Sea Street seating area and investigate the cost options discussed above and get back to us. Another meeting of the Committee is expected to review this material.