

Dogtown Advisory Committee
Minutes of February 21, 2018 Meeting

7 pm, 3rd floor conference room, Gloucester City Hall

Present: Mark Carlotto, Gardner Winchester, Nick Holland, Mary Ellen Lepionka, Dina Enos, Tom Mikus, Monica Lawton, Val Gilman

1. Meeting minutes of December 20, 2017: Accepted

2. Status Updates:

MHC Archaeological Survey

Mary Ellen reported that Phase I of the PAL survey has been received. Phase 2 will be completed by March 30, followed by a meeting at the Mass. Historical Commission in preparation for Phase 3. Lead archaeologist Kristen Heitert conducted archival research in Rockport and Gloucester on Feb. 12 and 14 at the Sandy Bay Historical Society, Gloucester Archives, Sawyer Free Library, and Cape Ann Museum. Kristen and Mary Ellen were interviewed by a Boston Globe reporter by appointment at Passports about the Dogtown project.

Landscape Restoration

Tim Simmons was unable to attend the meeting but reported by email that the restoration plan is proceeding satisfactorily. Areas for restoration have been identified and mapped. Tim attended a conference and is meeting with the Fire Chief this week to discuss conducting a controlled burn as a test. Some restoration projects require tree and brush removal instead.

Stump Dump

Cindy Dunn was unable to attend the meeting but others reported observations that the stumps have not been removed and more have been added to the pile. Val Gilman suggested making a formal complaint, because months ago the DAC paid from its own account to have the stumps deposited off site. However, Mark Carlotto received communications from DPW Director Mike Hale regarding the lapsed schedule for removal and is hopeful it will happen soon.

First Mill Footbridge

Herb Stillman was unable to attend the meeting but Nick Holland described the project plan, which has met the Building Inspector's standards. Students will build and install the bridge to specifications. A ribbon cutting ceremony is planned in conjunction with Dogtown Days 2018 (May 6) and it is hoped means can be found to bring Mayor Theken to the site to cut the ribbon. Meanwhile, the Cape Ann Trail Stewards has organized a Dogtown Trail Run to take place on May 20.

Maps

Nick suggested that the trail map not be revised until PAL has assembled all of its map datalayers. This will give us a variety of maps to choose from in building our own, and will ensure that it is consistent with PAL's work. Dina Enos reported that she has 6 cartons of maps. She will contact the distributor Ann Byers to find out where she has placed the maps and what the deal is for sharing the revenue. Dina will give the contact information to Mary Ellen to follow up. A goal is to place the maps in more locations, for example the hotel and the Chamber, to generate income for the DAC and use up the inventory.

Homeless in Dogtown

Derek Ketchopulos was not able to attend, but Gardner Winchester showed more pictures of makeshift shelters in Dogtown built by homeless people and wilderness seekers. Gardner will create a map schematic showing the locations of these sites. At some point the DAC will provide this information to the appropriate parties.

Updated Dogtown Management Plan

Chris Leahy and Charlie Crowley were not able to attend, but Chris report by email that the updated management plan is proceeding satisfactorily. The current focus is on the land ownership/protection section, which Charlie will finish up with help from Nick on maps. Once that is done they will bring the revised document back to the committee to review what remains to be done.

3. New business

Essex Heritage Partnership Grants

Mary Ellen gave information about this new grant opportunity, which includes eligibility for historic preservation and landscape restoration projects relating to educational outreach on cultural heritage and the arts. Such a grant might help pay for the restoration of artists' motifs in Dogtown, although the grants are quite small (\$2k). The Gloucester Historical Commission has applied for a Partnership Grant toward the publication of a booklet about Gloucester's architectural history. The deadline is March 15.

Dogtown Earth Day Event

The celebration of Dogtown is being planned by the Friends of Dogtown, which met on February 5 and will meet again on March 5. The name of the event has been changed to Dogtown Days 2018. Presentations will take place on May 5 in the Cape Ann Museum, and guided tours will take place on May 6 in Dogtown. As in the past the event will feature cellar hole and boulder histories, artists' and writers' inspirations, and nature studies.

Compost Area Study

This topic was deferred until the next meeting when Cindy can attend to report.

Next DAC meeting: Wednesday, March 21, 7pm, 3rd floor City Hall