

CDAC meeting minutes

June 4, 2025

Attending:

committee members - Lissa Widoff, Chair, Sean Murphy, Samantha Turner, Lex Bennett
guests - Steve Ribble, Context by Design; Cheryl Daigle, [Sebasticook Regional Land Trust](#)

Agenda:

1. Debrief site visit to Cannery Lot property with Steve Ribble of Context by Design
2. Summarize public mtg and survey findings for Steve R.
3. Identify next steps, timeline, process for landscape design

Minutes:

1. Debrief of site visit to Cannery Lot property

- Lissa, Steve R, Sean and Cheryl walked the property - identified extent of japanese knotweed, walked along Sandy Stream including Snowmobile.trail bridge and old mill remnants and abutments along stream, reviewed old foundation area and man-made wetlands that were identified as being problematic for amphibians and should likely be filled/graded. Very productive conversations and new ideas/Qs identified.
- Cheryl Daigle reported on the several properties they have in Freedom and Unity along Sandy Stream or nearby as "community lands". She is very impressed with the historical sites along the stream and is supportive or working collaboratively to help promote trail access in the Freedom area, potential restoration or testing how to deal with the knotweed. (Sean suggested "rolling" the knotweed but Lissa and Cheryle felt that could actually foster spread as any part that touches the ground will take root. We suggested Sean wait until we agree on an approach to perhaps test techniques for removal/elimination.
- We agreed that Cheryl need not attend all our meetings but that we will stay in contact especially as grant opportunities arise for trails or restoration.

2. Summarize public mtg and survey findings for Steve R.

- Lissa re-stated the general interest in seeing the area benefit public use, environmental protection of wetlands, trails/dog park, restoration where possible, no duplication of existing town recreation areas, continued access/use for Dept of Public Works; other public use potential on the developed areas can still happen in coordination with public works. Steve R has reviewed the Haley-Ward findings and our summary from last fall
- Agreed that refining these recommendations can involve talking more to stakeholders before presenting draft plans to the town.

3. Identify next steps, timeline, process for landscape design

- The goal remains to finish the concept plan by end of summer
- Stee indicated top priority now was to ID all stakeholders to review the recommended plans that we have to date, to ID issues, barriers and collaborative opportunities.
- The list of stakeholders to be considered in the short-term
 - MDOT - confirm pedestrian specs. Lissa will confirm other grant opportunities for walkability improvements.
 - Freedom Historical Society - status of CDS (Congressionally-Designated spending) funds and their interest in the stream mill history. *Update: CDS funding for Keen Hall not impacted by federal cuts and they are waiting on architectural drawings to proceed with renovations and getting the building closed in before winter. Wilson also suggested contacting Maine Historic Preservation Commission to see if they have interest in the Mill remnants and abutments.*
 - Sebasticook Regional Land Trust - possible trail and education/outreach connections (see above)
 - Hills-To-Sea Trail Coalition - Lissa will arrange call with Buck O'Heron of HTS and Steve R to discuss trail hub.
 - Snowmobile Trail Club - Lissa will get contact info from Laura and find out status of use or repairs for the Sandy Stream bridge and potential interest in seeking state trail funding for repairs/improvements.
 - Dept of Public Works - Lissa and Steve will reach out to Loren to explore other ideas for materials siting in case there is value to retaining the flat foundation areas for other public uses, TBD.
 - Freedom General Store - reach out to new owners to get understanding of the HTS kiosk and parking for trail access, status of boundary line for corner access.
 - Ecology Learning Center - engaging students in educational projects, and possibly research on invasive species like Japanese Knotweed,
 - Mount View HS - same
 - Bicycle Coalition of Maine - find out if they are seeking bike lanes in our area.

We agreed to do this follow-up work in the next month and reconvene for our next regular mtg July 2 meeting with Steve R joining by Zoom.