Willard Beach Master Plan Committee
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 24, 2020, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Conference Room, South Portland Public Works, 929 Highland Ave.

Present - Voting Members - Kevin Adams (Director of Parks and Recreation, City of South Portland), Steve Puleo (Community Planner, City of South Portland), Peter Wilson, Catherine Bickford, Peggy Stewart, Pedro Vazquez, Claude Morgan (non-voting). Quorum established.

Absent – Kristina Ertzner (Park Ranger, City of South Portland), Emily Wright, Lisa Thompson (resigned as member since last meeting), Adrian Dowling (resigned as member since last meeting).

Public – John Murphy, Ed Rowe, Brenda Peluso.

1. Review and Acceptance of Minutes from January 27, 2020 meeting. VOTE - Unanimously accepted.
   - Committee discussed public comment – should documents or comments submitted from public be added to committee work? Catherine moved to accept Ed Rowe’s public comments and append them to committee minutes Peggy seconded VOTE Unanimous.

2. Presentation by Fred Dillon (Stormwater Coordinator, City of South Portland); Water Quality Testing and Results; Q & A.
   - Fred noted that there is no sewage in stormwater outfalls at Willard Beach (WB).
     ➢ In heavy rain combined sewer overflows include dilute sewage.
     ➢ 6 minimum control measures, including education, required. Highest bacteria outfall is one nearest snack shack.
     ➢ City has been doing a number of things related to stormwater discharge including Maine Healthy Beaches (MHB) water quality monitoring since 1997.
     ➢ A number of samples have been collected and sent to MHB since 2018 -
       • WB was listed as dirtiest beach in Maine in 2013.
       • There is a possibility of adding stormwater mitigation measures/BMPs (Best Management Practices) at WB near parking lot can be funded through grants – Fred is preparing to submit a Coastal Communities grant for this.
         ➢ Some problems coming from individual homes, also from damaged pipes
         ➢ Over 40% of WB watershed area is covered by pavement – studies show that higher level of payment leads to higher contamination levels.
         ➢ In dry times exfiltration from sanitary sewer can go into stormwater.
   - Question - does dog poop contribute to problem? Fred says it’s a contributing factor.
   - City is going to be subject to a new state stormwater permit which is likely going to force the issue of infiltration/exfiltration – could be expensive.
   - WB coldest beach in Maine – geology of beach means that water doesn’t flush very well compared to other beaches.
   - Kevin question – what effect does SMCC side of beach have (lots of impervious pavement, lots of activity) – Fred has been sampling there at catch basins at ball field, most of problems coming from Angell/Cottage area.
Steve – SMCC has put in some BMPs and other upgrades – didn’t have a lot of the densely populated streets/combined sewers, etc. Sewage from old pipes is still getting into stormwater.

SMCC is a permittee and will have to start testing their outfalls as well

Claude – what if everyone planted a patch of cattails in their garden – would that help? Fred thinks so.

Wetlands Compensation Fund – part of Conservation Commission.

Pedro – Mahoney green team is doing a project on these kinds of plants.

Fred – currently working on building a rain garden at Brown School.

Brenda Peluso (public)– discussed history of previous WB committee/Report; good community participation – painted beach house, dune grass planting, rope fences-committee was an offshoot of WB neighborhood association.

3. Discussion of Willard Beach System document/Research Resource and Management Guide) (continued from last meeting) (not discussed at this meeting, tabled until next).

4. New business; discuss current make-up of committee.
   - Peter Wilson is temporarily taking over for Adrian.
   - Discussion about exodus from committee – Claude mentioned that this is going to be discussed at council. John Murphy’s nomination is currently being held up because of overrepresentation of District 1 on committee – Claude will bring this up at council as well.
   - Next meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 23.

5. Adjourn.