

Simpsons Point Public Access Facility Citizen's Advisory Committee

Adopted the by the Brunswick Town Council – March 15, 2021

This Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) is being proposed to serve in an advisory capacity to the Town Council with the goal of providing recommendations addressing safety, environmental, managerial and neighborhood concerns and the broader Brunswick community interest at the Simpsons Point Landing (the "Facility"). The CAC charge includes the following five aspects of facility development and operations:

1) Advise the Town Council on Facility Operation and Management Policies:

The CAC will review public comment received to date regarding facility operations and management. The CAC will work with town staff including representatives of the Parks and Recreation Department, Coastal Resources Office, and Police Department in crafting suggestions for Facility operation. These suggestions will inform future ordinance revisions.

2) Provide Comment on Final Facility Designs:

The Brunswick Town Council has approved an approach to funding parallel parking construction and removal of the deteriorated concrete ramp planking. Public comment on the preliminary design has been received, and it is expected that the Town will soon draft final plans to satisfy permitting requirements. As these plans are drafted the CAC will review steps taken to address public concerns. Access improvements for the former Cornell property have only been presented conceptually. The CAC shall provide recommendations to guide the final design of these improvements.

3) Assessment of Transportation Management Issues:

The CAC will work with Town staff to identify potential signage, and traffic controls necessary to accommodate the existing level of use and minimize traffic impacts on the neighborhood resulting from public use of the Facility. This task will include recommendations for promoting bicycle and pedestrian access.

4) Development of Facility User Education Program:

The CAC will suggest approaches to promote responsible and safe use of the Facility. Recommendations will be used in the development and/or improvement of informational on-site signage / kiosk, Town website information and written materials regarding Facility use.

5) Assessment of Annual Operating Expenses:

Based on CAC recommendations for Facility operations and management, the CAC will work Town staff to assess the likely annual operating budget associated with the Facility.

6) Ongoing Stewardship

The Committee will consider ongoing measures to ensure the proper level of oversight of the Simpsons Point site to protect the ecological, historical, and recreational values. The Committee will work with town staff to explore the feasibility of a park ranger and/or a volunteer Friends of Simpsons Point group to aid in the year-round supervision of the Point. Consideration will also be given to the development of an annual review and report to the Council, including but not limited to (a) the effectiveness of the facility management policies, (b) the identification of any environmental concerns, and (c) any opportunities for additional land acquisition abutting the Point.

Expected Timing: It is expected that the CAC will deliver its recommendations to the Town Council by June 30th, 2021, or as soon as possible thereafter. Nothing herein shall prevent the Town Council or staff from taking appropriate actions in the meantime to address near term Facility safety or managerial issues.

The CAC consists of the following 10 members:

2 Town Councilors

2 members of the Brunswick Recreation Commission

2 members of the Brunswick Rivers and Coastal Waters Commission

1 member of the Brunswick Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

1 neighbor to the facility (directly across street, or abutting)

1 Pennellville/Simpson's Point Road neighborhood representative

1 resident at large

Staff support for the CAC to include:

1 representative of the Coastal Resources Office

1 representative of the Department of Parks and Recreation

Representatives from Public Safety Departments, Public Works, and Planning will be invited as needed.