



Fort Point Trail Project

St. George
Conservation Commission
August 19, 2021



Agenda

- Why is Trail Rehabilitation Needed?
- Significance of the Fort Point Trail
- Effort to Date
- Funding Approach
- Summary & Questions

Why is Rehabilitation Needed?

- Trail deterioration
- Wetlands impact on trail
- Bridge safety issues
- Significant ongoing maintenance required
- Routine trail closures due to poor conditions

Current Trail Conditions



Trail deterioration – widening and erosion

Current Trail Conditions



Existing bridge – safety concerns



Bog bridging – constant repair required

Current Trail Conditions



Steep grades – slippery when wet

Trail Significance

- Only public land access to Historic Fort St. Georges
- Only public access in St. George to the river
- Special place with views up and down the river
- Important attraction in town
- Highest usage trail in town

Universal Access

- What is Universal Access (UA)?
- Most appropriate trail in town to adapt to UA
- UA trail will provide access for persons with
 - Limited mobility
 - People with walkers
 - Wheelchairs
 - Families with strollers

Universal Access



3 Foot Wide Firm & Stable Surface with Gradual Grades

Universal Access



UA bridge and boardwalk examples

Efforts to Date

- Fall 2019 - Conservation Commission launches project
- Winter 2020 - Professional Trail Designer provided design plan
- Sept. 2020 - Meetings with the Maine BPL
 - Identified project as worthwhile
 - Called the location a “Gem”
- Oct. 2020 - Select Board established Ad-Hoc Fort Point Committee
- May 2021 - Funding approved at Town Meeting
- Grant proposal preparation in progress
 - September submittal
- Project supported by
 - GRLT, MCHT, Parks & Recreation Dept., Blueberry Cove and St George School

Funding Approach

- Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Grant
 - Covers 80% of the cost
 - Required 20% match made up of
 - Town funds
 - Donated funds
 - In-kind services (volunteer labor and materials)
- BPL RTP Grant Director is enthusiastic about our project
 - Encouraged us to apply for the largest grant category - \$120K
- Project estimated cost- \$160K
- Current Town Match includes
 - Engineering costs \$10.6K
 - Town Meeting approved funds \$10K
 - Donations (to-date) \$4.4K
 - Pledged In-kind services \$9K
 - Total \$34K
- Need to Raise \$6K in pledges contingent upon grant funding

Want to Help?

- Pledges now will help meet the matching funds goal
- Actual donation not required until RTP grant awarded
- Partnering with St. George Historical Society to accept donations which are tax deductible if you itemize deductions
- Pledge forms available tonight

Project Benefits

- Safe trail, accessible to more people
- Will become only UA trail in the area
- Lower maintenance
- Reduced need for trail closures
- Economic impact to local business
- RTP funding from State will pay 75% of cost

Questions

