

October 5, 2020

Fort Point Trail Ad Hoc Committee Charge

Whereas the Fort Point Trail has deteriorated due very high use (wearing in) and erosion; a significant portion of the trail route is through wetland, accelerating the deterioration and causing widening of the trail; the condition of the 15+ year old bridge has become a safety issue; the existing bog bridging requires significant maintenance on a yearly basis and the trail was closed from late spring into summer this past year due to the poor trail condition;

Whereas, the Fort Point Trail is the only public land access to historic Fort Point State Park; the only public access in St George to the river for recreation, birding, picnicking, fishing and clamming; a special place with views up and down the river; an important attraction in town, the highest used trail in town, and a relatively short, easy walk;

Whereas the Bureau of Parks and Lands (BPL) of the State of Maine has expressed a willingness to partner with the Town and provide funding for development of a firm and stable Universal Access (UA) trail to and within the historic Fort Point State Park;

Therefore, The Select Board of the Town of St George has established an Ad-Hoc Fort Point Trail Committee. The committee shall consist of a minimum of 5 members and maximum of 7 members. Membership shall include at least one member from each of the following groups; the Conservation Commission, the St. George Historical Society, the Select Board and the Town Administration. The charge is as follows:

- Develop a cost estimate for preparing a grant application and a funding plan to address these costs.
- Raise funds through private and municipal sources to fund engineering design and survey costs.
- Coordinate with the BPL on the development of a maintenance agreement for the Fort Point State Park.
- Work with trail consultants to develop a UA trail design, develop project costs and complete a property survey of the project area.
- Coordinate with the St. George Historical Society on preservation of historic resources within the project area
- Complete applications for project funding grants from the Recreational Trails program, Land and Water Conservation Program, and other relevant funding opportunities
- Provide oversight and project management during the development and implementation phases of the project.
- Review plans and progress toward each bullet point with the Select Board as the project progresses to verify continued support for the project.

It is the goal that this work will be completed by October 2022, at which point the Ad Hoc Committee would be dissolved.