**BTCP Committee Meeting and Site Walk with Anne Stires: November 23, 2019**

**Present: Mary Voskian, Anne Stires, Jane Carroll, Joe Vitti, Joan Ray, Daniel Ungier, Elaine Milardo, Mary Berger, Walter Voskian**

Comments by Anne during the site walk:

* Determine “Why” and “Why Not” the committee should move forward with the concept plan (20 80 rule.)
* Consider the demographic you are attracting to site and those with limited mobility

Mary V. discussed how the concept plan was first initiated and stated the Town of Bremen does not have a school in the community and the goal was to attract kids to come to the library. Of the town residents who participated in a survey generated by the BTCP Committee, 70% - 73% opted to develop a play/recreation area for kids as the first phase of the project. Daniel also mentioned the survey results also opted for developing an “accessible” pathway made of crushed stone or grass that could be used for both walking or hiking for multiple generational age groups. It was noted that Bremen has a large population of older adults who favored a walking trail/path. Providing a path/trail that extends into sections of the perimeter wooded area for walking/hiking was another design option.

Design factors from Anne as she walked the site and other factors discussed during the meeting:

* Utilize the trees within the area for swings etc.
* Check out books from library and provide an outdoor reading “nook” based on the book “Red Knife Cap Girl in the Reading Tree” philosophy by Naoko Stoop
* Provide a “Story Board” in the reading nook for more interaction.
* Design a story space that is either “square/rectangular or round”
  + Round spaces work best and provide visibility and an inclusive feeling
  + “Yurt”(Mongolian) structure that is seasonal
* Design a “Base Camp” concept with the “Base Camp” utilizing the proposed pavilion (recommends a small one) set just off septic fields near lupines and target children age 6 and under (Claire Warden designed base camp type of structure.)
* Design a “mud kitchen” (which is an umbrella term) up near pines near library area that can be utilized for “open ended play”; proposed idea to provide at least 4 kitchen type sinks inset into a base (such as wood) for at least 4 kids at the same time.
  + Concern from Joan was that kids would get dirty and there is no water to clean their hands.
  + Daniel mentioned wood chips or other approved material should be provided around the mud kitchen concept.
  + Anne also mentioned designing an “oven” out of a log and utilize as a play kitchen.
* Design with “Fewer Concepts” in the initial design, “Less is More”
* Four Elements to design around:
  + Earth, Air, Water, Fire (Anne discussed providing a fire pit within the base camp and some committee members were concerned about liability issues.)
* Provide an entry and exit
  + Small gate
  + Sticks that are bent
  + Claire Warden concept
* Other ideas presents by committee members were:
  + boat with a wheel
  + clamming area
  + worming area
* Mary V. discussed ideas from her Boston trip: stick structures, using culvert pipes, “wispy hanging” pieces, musical “instruments” components, wooden “cars”
* Six Risky Play Themes of Childhood by Ellen Beete and Seter:
  + Hide n get lost
  + Climb high
  + Water/fire
  + Rough/tumble play
  + Running fast
  + Dangerous tools
* Provide places for children to go into such as play houses and/or enclosures
  + A committee member mentioned some “twig artists” in Maine and utilize some of their ideas; Try to get grant to build twig art; contact Susan Perrine
* Swing or two from the adjacent oak trees
* Provide an “Interactive space” as described above (mud kitchen concept)
* Provide an “Enclosed space” such as a small pavilion
* Other factors:
  + Issue of logistics; most grandparents and caretakers will bring children to site and the issue of designing for “mobility” is key per Anne
* Anne recapped discussion and design factors that will be key:
  + Ensure space is designed for easy mobility with elder population considerations
  + Provide Entry and Exit point
  + Design one or two swings from large Oak Tree on site
  + Provide an interactive space
  + Utilize “Base Camp” concept design using “round” space
  + Provide “small pavilion” near lupine field, lupine fields/hill area
  + Provide an “enclosed space”
  + Provide balancing equipment
  + Develop “Overall Goal”
  + Develop plan with “Less is More”
  + Trails for multi-generation
  + Provide benches
  + Jane stated “We need a rough budget to do this.”
* Daniel commented on concept of
  + “Less is More” is best to start
  + Project Scope “Narrow” to start
  + Utilize the “Mud Kitchen” concept
  + Provide boat structure
  + Climbing structure
  + Twigs
  + Make it easy and provide concept kids love
  + Provide concept that Town is receptive to
  + Keep design factor mobile to Grandparents/Caregivers
* Mary V.: start with Play/Recreation area and Pavilion
  + Maine Bicentennial in 2020 will be “Kick off” for first phase, play/recreation area
* Overall Key Factors stated by Committee Members at end of meeting:
  + Jane asked, “How do we engage Anne? What are her fees and how much time can she provide? Provide her with a “sense of scope” of the overall project, what is the project range. Provide a budget prior to writing any grant. Provide “whole vision.” Check with Town for setbacks before moving forward.
  + Lupine fields need to remain.
  + Daniel: We still have not defined an exact area and may need to move project
  + Joan will provide Google Map of overall property area; How do we narrow stuff down?
  + Elaine & Jane: Need to provide property lines, check with Town for setback
  + Committee: Contact abutting property owner for exact setbacks and define work area
  + Elaine: define where Library septic leach fields are located.
  + Jane: Funding - Look to individuals to provide funding to project. Who do we ask? Need to get individuals to “buy into” the town concept plan. Start with budget of $$5,000 to 10,000 to “launch” first phase.
* Anne ending comments to provide to her by 2020:
  + Provide an estimate for “Base Camp” concept
  + Estimate of square footage of “play/recreation area”
  + Go to Juniper Hill for concept ideas
  + Define property line
  + Recommends having speakers such as Nancy Striniste and utilize her book, “Nature Play at Home” and books by others

* + Hold meeting with key individuals about scope of project and have a conversation with them to engage them in contributing financially
  + Anne will provide committee with her fee structure