

**FORT EDWARD LANDS DISCUSSION
JANUARY 25, 2023**

Attendees:

Vinny Toney (Mi'kmaq Warrior Society), Darrell Leighton (Royal Canadian Legion), Ted Dolan (Parks Canada), Mark Phillips (Municipality CAO), Sara Beanlands (Boreas Heritage Consulting Inc. via link).

WHHS: Shirley Pineo, Gary Nelson, John Wilson, Jon Hall, Mike Campbell, Kel Hancock, Dawn Allen (recorder)

Shirley opened the meeting at 1:05pm with acknowledgement of our meeting taking place on the unceded lands of the Mi'kmaq.

Minutes from January 11, 2023 meeting were accepted.

Meeting Agenda / Discussions / Decisions:

1. *Do we wish to preserve these lands?*

- WHHS would like to preserve them
- all representatives who were in attendance were also in agreement

2. *Which cultures should be represented?*

- Acadians
- Mi'kmaq
- British Soldiers
- Black Loyalist needs to be represented says Ted.
- Jewish Legion
- Ulster Scots as tenant farmers.
- Black Loyalist Community, and from 1812.
- Huguenots
- Scots Highlanders, including the 84th regiment
- all military groups over time

Ted D suggests we should identify the founding peoples/communities chronologically. It will be most comprehensive and will achieve the most success. Must be inclusive and not leave any communities out.

More possible community contacts:

Roddy Johnson may be a contact for the Black community, or Robert Ffrench (He is the Chief Executive Officer, Valley African Nova Scotian Development Association (VANSDA). Ted D will send email shortly. Sheldon States perhaps. John W will contact Percy States.

All agreed that we learn more every time we have a meeting.

3. What would be the best way to use this land?

-Show true history (We want this to reflect a true chronological history of communities)

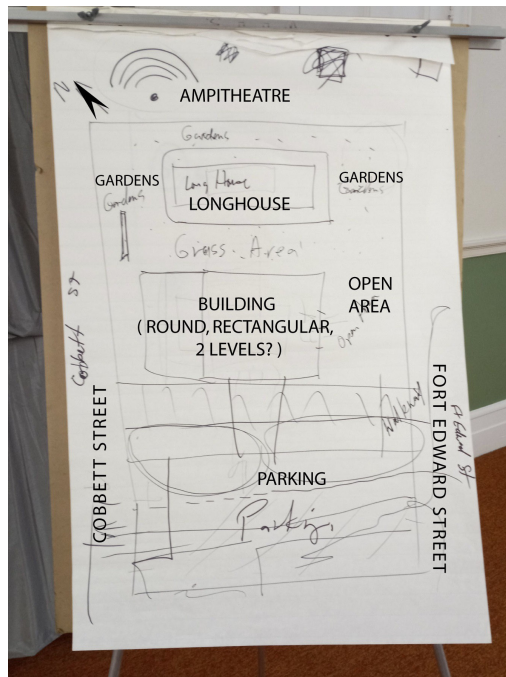
-Calm and relaxing place to sit and remember. Peace and reconciliation gardens? Plants can be used to teach Indigenous medicines such as dandelions, Flag root, Bear root. Europeans came with plants and trees. Soapwort, for Acadian soap making. Educating what are indigenous species vs invasive. Indigenous and Acadian cooking.

-Area to showcase Local Arts and Culture. Culture means different things to different cultures. Music and food are key to all. Longhouse dimensions 12-15 ft wide 20-30 long. What should be done inside any and all buildings must be carefully considered. Longhouse teaching sessions? Will there be a tourism info center, a place for presentations?

Think about the view from the highway and where to put all the community's flags. Buildings could compliment the Block House or the Officers Quarters perhaps. Perhaps a building could have two stories, one floor with an open space for events with music. Operational staffing might come from the different communities, perhaps from Parks Canada as well?

We need to throw all ideas on the table, do a rough design of the grounds and buildings, then get a conceptual design plan created, preferably executed by individuals with interpretive experience. Think about the functions that will be held (talks, dances, music, meetings, weddings?) and the necessary interior features and space that will be required, etc. Future refinement of the conceptual design plan will take place later, but this is what the municipal council really needs to see from us.

Darrell L drew a quick sketch. We discussed it. See below. Included small amphitheatre in upper left.



A Go-Fund-Me campaign was suggested to raise funds for the concept design plan, but first let's try for an educational school project created by a student. Roger Lewis (Curator of Mi'kmaq Cultural Heritage at the NS Museum) might have a NSCC contact who might be able to mock up something in an educational partnership with an Architectural Engineering Technician program?

Mark P will ask about Bldg codes and regulations regarding accessibility and set backs from buildings etc.

Think about what we want people to leave with, and to get out of the experience once they have left. Sense of community, belonging, etc.

SOME INITIAL NEXT STEPS:

Need to make sure the larger group is on board. Ted D suggests this can be done in an email.

Kel H says we need to put something on our Facebook page that can be shared.

NEXT MEETING:

Feb 22nd Wed pm