

To: Hampden Tree Board  
From: Kay Carter  
11/6/2008  
Re: Archeology and Dorothea Dix Park

Gretchen, Kurt, Bob Osborn and I did a walkthrough of Dorothea Dix Park today with Leon Cranmer, Historical Archeologist with the Maine Historic Preservation Commission.<sup>1</sup> The purpose was to ascertain whether there might be sites of historical/archeological significance which should be protected in the development of the Park.

It was an interesting walkthrough, with Leon Cranmer being very helpful in a variety of areas.

- 1) Relative to sites with potential for archeological exploration, Leon identified two areas which seemed to have characteristics of previous foundations. The first was the one which had been identified previously by Gretchen; the second was a depression in the field at the eastern end of the park. It was Leon's recommendation that we conduct an exploration of these areas before they become widely known to the public.
- 2) Leon suggested a model for exploration of the sites which has been used in other parts of the state. Communities have been able to hire an archeologist who then guides students from the local high school in conducting a dig. This enhances the educational value of the dig, provides for focused community 'buy-in' to the effort, and can be an economic means of going about the effort. This has been done in both Falmouth and Auburn. Leon told us about the archeologists who worked with Falmouth and will get us their contact information. He also indicated that there is a retired professor of Archeology who lives in Winterport who might be interested in the efforts. Leon will be doing some initial contact with the person from Winterport to test whether there is any initial interest.
- 3) The Town of Hampden is a Certified Local Government under the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. As such it is eligible for federal grants which can be utilized "by local governments to collect and analyze information on the location and significance of archeological and historic properties; produce historic theme and context studies,...." These Federal grants are 60/40 matching grants.
- 4) Leon made reference to the old county maps (which they have copies of in his office in Augusta). They date from 1881 and 1859. He indicated that he would look at them and see if they showed buildings on the property and if so, where the buildings were located.

**Follow-up:**

- 1) Leon will be:
  - a) Looking up the old maps and making a jpeg file of them to send to us;
  - b) Getting the contact information for the Archeologists who worked with Falmouth and Auburn and giving that to us;

---

<sup>1</sup> Contact information: 287-2132; e-mail: [leon.cranmer@maine.gov](mailto:leon.cranmer@maine.gov)

- c) Make an initial contact with the retired archeologist in Winterport to gauge his interest in becoming involved in the project
- 2) Kay will be in Augusta on 11/13 and will stop by Leon's office to pick up any material which they have;
- 3) Gretchen will e-mail Leon the GPS points for the potential sites which were found on the property
- 4) Kurt and Kay are meeting about the project and a potential application to the Maine Conservation corps on 11/19. We will look at this part of the project at the same time and develop recommendations for further action.

Please note, if there is a decision to go for a grant under the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, the deadline for the application is 12/19/08.