To: Members of the Cape Elizabeth Town Council

From: Lise Pratt, Fort Williams Advisory Commission, Chair

Date: July 24, 2015

Re: **Proposal for Demolition of the Bleachers**

 On behalf of the members of the Fort Williams Advisory Commission, I am pleased to submit this proposal for your consideration and review. It has been prepared in response to direction you provided to the Commission at the workshop session with you on June 15, 2015.

 The concrete bleachers have been our top priority over the past year. With some urgency in mind due to safety concerns, we have considered several concepts and design options for replacement. One preliminary plan was complete at year-end 2014. But when we reconvened in 2015, many supported exploring an alternate plan which would include amphitheatre seating for a larger audience and offer the potential for generating additional revenue. We have worked in earnest since March to develop a design and rationale for such a plan, forming a sub-committee to expedite the process and engaging the services of a consultant (Mitchell & Associates) for guidance and technical expertise.

 At our workshop session with you on June 15, I presented an update on our progress to date. We had compiled materials for you that outlined and compared the original plan and the alternate plan. I also reported at the workshop that the majority of us favored the newer, alternate plan and that we hoped to get direction from you in moving this plan forward. Your response was that we needed to solicit more public input and provide an opportunity for public comment on the plan, particularly around its impact on the park, surrounding neighborhoods and staffing. At the same time, you remained concerned that the bleachers were a safety hazard and wanted that addressed as soon as possible. The consensus from you was to implement a phased approach, to first begin demolition of the existing bleachers, as the project beyond the demolition needs more study and review. You requested we bring you a recommendation for the demolition and stabilization of the bleachers. We are responding with this proposal, which was approved in a 4:2 vote at our July 16, 2015 meeting.

Accompanying request for release of funds:

 There are no funds currently approved in our FY2016 budget to accomplish this proposed project. So, with this proposal comes a request that you release $120,000 from the FWP Capital Fund for that purpose. This includes $110,300 for the project scope, $8,000 for engineering-related services, and a residual amount to offset any unknowns.

 Please note that the cost estimate assumes the demolition will take place over the winter of 2015-2016, with the final seeding done in the spring of 2016.