

## STATEMENT OF POLICY FOR FORT WILLIAMS

Presented 10-25-1976

Adopted 10-25-1976

WHEREAS the Town of Cape Elizabeth acquired the Fort Williams property for municipal purposes on December 1, 1964 pursuant to the vote of the Special Town Meeting held August 3, 1964; and

WHEREAS almost continuously during the succeeding years the Town of Cape Elizabeth has caused numerous studies to be made of possible uses for the Fort Williams property, both professional consultants and citizen volunteers, some of which produced recommendations deemed entirely acceptable to the Town; and

WHEREAS in December 1974 the Town Council appointed the Fort Williams Study Committee to undertake an intensive study of Fort Williams and render a written report with findings, recommendations for use and improvement and consideration of the costs and effects of their implementation; and

WHEREAS the Fort Williams Study Committee submitted its report on June 28, 1976 and the Town Council has accepted and considered such report, discussed the same with the Study Committee and obtained public comment at a public informational meeting held on August 26, 1976; and

WHEREAS Town Council members have been closely involved with studies, proposals, recommendations and improvements for Fort Williams from the time of its acquisition by the Town, observing the searching, shifting and solidifying attitudes of the town residents toward this 94-acre area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cape Elizabeth Town Council does hereby adopt the following basic statement of policy proposed by the Fort Williams Study Committee:

Fort Williams is a unique community resource which has irreplaceable scenic, natural and historic qualities. As such it should be dedicated to predominately park, recreational and cultural uses, which uses preserve or enhance, and are otherwise fully compatible with, its unique qualities, and which uses are within the financial capabilities of the Town;

the Cape Elizabeth Town Council does further agree with the following primary recommendation of the Fort Williams Study Committee:

The portion of the Fort which includes all of the shore front and the parade grounds should be permanently dedicated to use as public open space and should not be developed or built upon; the boundaries of the portion to be kept open is shown on the [map and description incorporated into this resolution](#); the Cape Elizabeth Town Council does further approve more specific recommendations for future utilization and improvement of Fort Williams as embodied in the All-Park Alternative presented by the Study Committee (outlined on pages 42-44 & 60 of

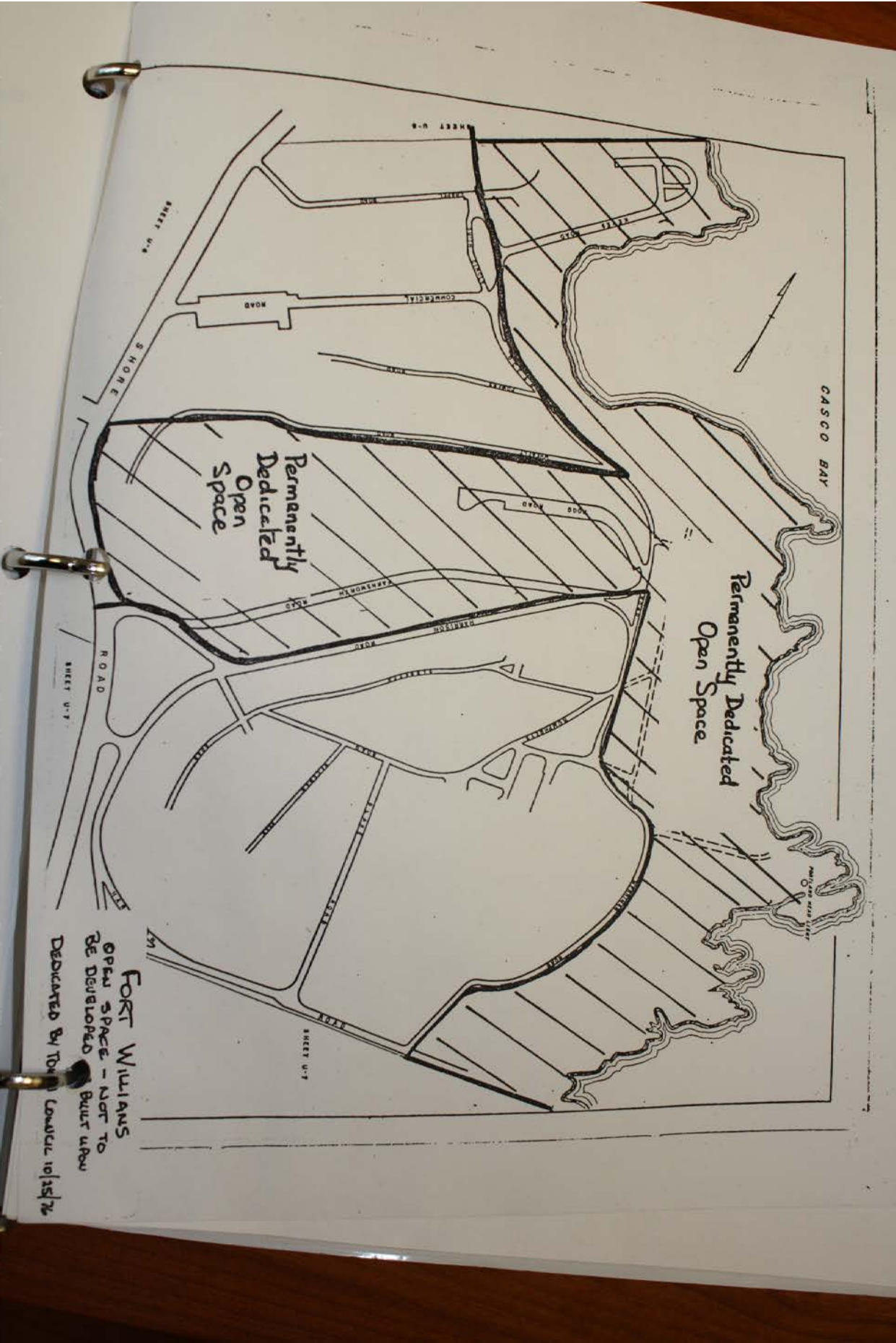
its June 28, 1976 Report) with minor modifications, and does adopt the following plan for implementation consistent with the foregoing policy:

1. The Town Council deems it advisable to appoint a continuing advisory committee to assist the Town Council with recommendations for implementation of this Statement of Policy.
2. Improvements within Fort Williams should be phased over a period of time, and the Town Council hopes to appropriate funds in the range of \$30,000-40,000 annually for this purpose, subject to overall budgetary considerations; additionally the Town shall pursue funding assistance from federal, state and foundation sources.
3. The Keyes and Garesche Bunkers should be preserved and improved to emphasize the historical aspects of Fort Williams.
4. The Town Council finds it desirable to explore further the feasibility of renovating buildings on Officers' Row for lease to educational, cultural, philanthropic and recreational organizations public or non-profit in nature.
5. The order of priority of improvements shall be approved by the Town Council after

## DESCRIPTION OF FORT WILLIAMS OPEN SPACE AREA

The area to be permanently dedicated as open space is the area within the following boundaries:

From the southerly border of Fort Williams along the easterly side of Merriman Road, along the easterly side of Ocean Road to the northerly side of Harrison Road and Farnsworth Road thence in a westerly direction along the northerly side of Harrison Road as far as Christian Road and thence along the northerly side of Christian Road in a northwesterly direction as far as the intersection with Farnsworth Road, across Farnsworth Road, thence in a westerly direction along the northern side of Farnsworth Road to Shore Road; thence along the easterly side of Shore Road in a northerly direction approximately as far as the intersection with Olde Fort Road, thence in an easterly direction to Wheatly Road, thence easterly along the southerly side of Wheatly Road to the intersection with Ocean Road, thence in a northwesterly direction along the northerly side of Ocean Road, thence around the outside northerly edge of Smith Circle to the intersection with Chapel Road, thence in a northwesterly direction to the northern boundary of Fort Williams.



FORT WILLIAMS  
 OPEN SPACE - NOT TO  
 BE DEVELOPED BUT UPON  
 DEDICATED BY THE COMMISSION 10/15/76