

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Fort Williams Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2006**

Revision: First draft, 3/21/06.

Present: Ellen Nadeau (Chair), Tina Harnden, Maureen McCarthy, Steve Parkhurst, Jim Rowe, Dan Chase (Secretary).

Absent: Chuck Wilson

Staff: Bob Malley

Guests: Joel Russ (Fort Williams Charitable Foundation)

Called to Order: 7:17 PM in the Public Works Building conference room.

Approval of February 16, 2006 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the 02/16/06 meeting were approved as submitted.

Schedule Site Walk of Park

A site walk of the new portion of the cliff walk, southerly from Portland Head Light, is scheduled for April 4th, at 5:30 PM. The purpose of the walk is to identify possible locations for additional park benches. The Commission will meet at the lighthouse parking lot.

Discussion on Goddard Mansion Findings - Committee

It was noted that the Town currently has no historic preservation ordinance at all. Jim presented a report summarizing his research on the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, the history and current status of historical preservation efforts within the Town, and his recommendations. A general discussion of the issue was held. Some felt that more research should be done before becoming more visible with our efforts. Others felt that the public should be approached immediately to gauge general sentiment. Tina will get additional information from various sources, including the town Historical Society. Ellen will get additional information from Town staff. Steve will get additional information from the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. The issue will be discussed at our joint meeting with the Fort Williams Charitable Foundation in May.

Review of Fee Proposals Submitted to Town Council - Committee

Tina summarized the five options presented to the Town Council for the new members. There was a general discussion of the various options, with the goal of selecting one option to be recommended and pursued above the others. Bob Malley gave the Commission background information regarding what he saw as practical benefits and difficulties in implementing some of the options.

Page 2. Fort Williams Advisory Commission

Minutes March 16, 2006

It was moved by Jim, and seconded by Steve, that the Commission go on record as requesting that money collected from parking fees, and by the Park in other ways, be used for the benefit of the Park. This passed unanimously.

It was moved by Steve, and seconded by Tina, that the option to collect exit fees at a toll booth be selected by the Commission as our favored system. Two voted in favor. A formal "no" vote was not taken.

It was moved by Dan, seconded by Maureen, and amended by Jim, that in response to the Council's request to recommend a method for revenue generation at the Park, and in order to move ahead on the issue, the Commission request that Town staff investigate the implementation of the "pay and display" parking fee option. This passed by a vote of five in favor, and two against, with Chuck Wilson voting by proxy.

The Commission had further discussion in which various members expressed their discomfort at having to make a choice with no hard information, with a great many details to be worked out, and with no discussion and vote ever having taken place on whether the Commission is in favor of fees at the Park at all, among other issues.

Bob Malley noted:

- that he had given permission for an informal tour of the Park by the Portland Harbor Museum on Saturday, June 10th. The museum will make a donation to the Park in recognition.
- that the picnic shelter will be re-roofed in April.
- that two 12 X 12 bricks had been sold at the playground.
- that fencing had been repaired at the Goddard Mansion.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, April 13th, at 7:15 PM.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Chase, Secretary