

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Fort Williams Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2006**

Revision: Second draft 7/4/06.

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

Absent:

Staff: Bob Malley (arrived after Recycling Committee meeting).

Guests:

Called to Order: 7:18 PM in the Public Works Building conference room.

Approval of May 18, 2006 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the 05/18/06 meeting were approved as submitted after correction of an error in the name of T-Mobile.

Continuation of the discussion on Cellular Tower Proposal

The Commission reviewed an email from Peter Cooke of T-Mobile to Bob Malley. The email presented lease rates and other details for typical tower installations.

Ellen provided a report on her conversation with Maureen O'Meara about previous tower applications and any other information the Planning Office might be able to provide. Maureen feels that antenna technology is advancing, and if the tower is not approved cellular service might be able to be provided in some other way in the near future. On the other hand, if the tower is approved, she feels that the potential cellular market in Cape Elizabeth is small enough that not all existing service providers would ask to be provided coverage.

The Commission felt the new proposed tower location, in the far left-field corner of the ball field adjacent to Day One, was more acceptable, but still had many concerns.

A motion was developed as follows:

The Fort Williams Advisory Commission does not believe that locating a commercial cellular communications tower at Fort Williams Park is compatible with the policy for park uses. However, the Commission would not be averse to allowing the construction of one (only) such tower if it is deemed necessary for public safety communications, with the following qualifications:

- In order to limit the extent to which a tower would conflict with the natural beauty of the park, it should be located in as unobtrusive a location as possible. We believe the least offensive site to be within the wooded area south of the storage garages and the AA baseball field, between Shore Rd. and the Public Works' buildings.
- The proposed tower should be a monopole design, no taller than 100 feet. Every effort should be made to shield the attendant fence and electrical wiring/cables and equipment from public view.

- It needs to be clarified what the town's legal obligation is regarding future cell carriers' requests for antenna space, as this proposed tower is limited, at 100 feet, to three antennas (in addition to the public safety equipment).
- Lease fees from a tower should be used to offset operating expenses at Fort Williams Park.
- An appropriate lease rate should take into account not only the fair market value, but should be sensitive to this unique location.

The motion was seconded and approved, 6 in favor and 1 opposed.

Reschedule Joint Meeting with Charitable Trust

The Fort Williams Charitable Trust will attend the September meeting of the Commission.

"Pay & Display" Committee Meeting Report

The Commission briefly discussed the final Committee report. Members of the Commission are asked to attend the Council workshop with the Pay and Display Committee on June 22 and present any specific comments in that forum.

The Commission briefly discussed the issue of parking at the old main gate, and possible solutions. This will be discussed in depth at the July meeting, after the workshop is held.

Among other points mentioned: there will be a pay and display meter at the playground parking lot; police will enforce a policy of parking for ball games only at Plaisted field; the dates parking fees will be charged were determined by staffing cost/benefit analysis; the charges for buses and trolleys in item 3 are to be per vehicle, not per company.

Discussion of the Commission's Position on Fees

The Commission felt it expressed general support fees at the time it voted to recommend the Town pursue the Pay and Display option. However, a more encompassing motion was made by Chuck as follows:

The Fort Williams Advisory Commission endorses the Pay and Display proposal drafted by the special task force for the Council. This endorsement is based on:

- Three members of the Commission were on the task force.
- The recommendation is consistent with one of the options that were submitted to the Council in June 2005.
- That after it is in place for one year, it will be reviewed in full, with FWAC involvement.

The motion was seconded and passed with 7 in favor (with Maureen voting by proxy), and 0 against.

New Business

There was no other new business.

Park Project Update

Bob Malley noted:

- The picnic shelter re-roofing is complete.
- Because of the rainy weather, it is very difficult to keep up with the mowing, and not all areas are mowed right now.
- Clean-up for High School graduation was completed.
- Clean-up for Family Fun Day is in progress.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, July 20th, at 7:15 PM.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Chase, Secretary