

**Town of Cape Elizabeth  
Fort Williams Advisory Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2006**

**Revision:** Approved 01/18/07.

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

**Absent:** Jim Rowe was sworn to his seat on the Town Council on December 11<sup>th</sup> and had to resign his seat on the Commission at that time.

**Staff:** Bob Malley

**Guests:** None

**Called to Order:** 7:15 PM in the Public Works Building conference room by Ellen Nadeau.

**Approval of November 16, 2006 Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the 11/16/06 meeting were approved as submitted in the second draft of 12/12.

**Review and Discussion of FWCF Joint Meeting**

There was a general discussion of the joint meeting, and the Annual Appeal letter that has since come out in the Cape Courier. There were some questions about the new members being sought for the Foundation Board of Directors, especially the issue of whether they would be from Cape Elizabeth. It was not clear exactly what Joel Russ had said about this at the joint meeting. Ellen will contact Joel and Mike McGovern prior to the upcoming workshop with the Town Council and the Foundation.

**Goddard Mansion – Committee Discussion**

Ellen did some research at the Cape Elizabeth Historical Society. She did not find any new information that would make a compelling case to preserve the building ruin for historical reasons. She actually could not find much background information about it at all, unlike what would be expected of an historical property.

She also went to the Research Library at the Maine Historical Society and spoke with the librarian on duty. The librarian pulled the only file they had and upon viewing the contents, discovered there was no new information found. The architect is believed to be Charles A. Alexander. A quick on-line search for any information of Mr. Alexander was not found. She suggested we might contact Earle Shettleworth to see if he could add anything more to what he had already stated in a letter dated February 28, 1983.

A general discussion was held. There were two fires of unknown origin in the building in the 70's/early 80's, which destroyed the roof and interior floors. A controlled burn was done in 1981 to minimize the debris from the previous fires, and the basement was filled in. Many members are not inclined to spend money to stabilize the ruin as would be required by the findings of the engineering report. Ideas to create some kind of memorial of the building, rather than preserving the building itself, were discussed. These included: preserving the entryway, preserving portions of the exterior walls, interpretive plaques, and creating a model.

It was moved by Tina, and seconded by Chuck, that money not be spent to preserve the ruin as outlined in the OEST engineering report, but to start looking into options. This motion passed, 5 in favor and 1 opposed.

Since the ruin has been secured and seems stable for now, the general feeling of the Commission is that it should be removed from the top of our priority list and that other goals be pursued.

### **New Business**

Other goals, and where they should be on the priority list, were discussed. Because of more pressing issues, a five year plan for the Park has not been done for a few years. A new plan should be done to firmly establish the current goals and priorities. Given the upcoming joint workshop meeting between the Town Council, Fort Williams Charitable Foundation, and the Commission, a general discussion of goals and priorities was held in preparation.

Goals and priorities include:

- Upgrading the bleachers
- A light for the flagpole
- Additional historical signage
- Pond improvements
- Parking improvements
- New interpretive installation for the knoll overlooking the islands
- Stone wall repairs
- Tree maintenance
- Securing battery Garesche against entry
- Invasive plant control
- Improvements at battery Blair to prevent vegetation growth
- Possible upgrade of toilet facilities

### **Park Project Update**

Bob reported:

- Stone wall repair was required beside the old main entrance. This one project used up the entire wall repair budget for the current year.
  - A couple of trees which had blown down were removed, including one on Chapel Road.
  - Leaf removal was done at the oaks and around the rental buildings.
  - The budget for fiscal '07 is due the second week in February.
  - Bob is compiling Park use requests for next year. He is contacting past users to see if they
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plan on returning this year. Use requests will be on the agenda in January.

- Ernie McVane is overseeing renovations of the vacated rental building.

### **Farewell to Steve**

The Commission wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to Steve Parkhurst for his six years of service and, as Town residents, also for his ten years of service on the Planning Board.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup> , at 7:15 PM.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daniel Chase, Secretary