

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Fort Williams Advisory Commission
Meeting minutes
October 16, 2008**

Draft: 10/16/08

Present: Chuck Wilson (Chair), Bill Nickerson, Tina Harnden, Dan Chase, Frank Butterworth and Maureen McCarthy, Greg Alznauer

Staff: Bob Malley

Call to order: 7:05 PM in the Public Works Conference Room by Chuck Wilson...

Approval of the minutes for the 9/18/08 meeting:

Frank moved to accept and Bill seconded to approve with a few minor corrections. Unanimously approved.

Budget:

Bob had nothing new to report, just some ongoing projects. Lots of buses from leaf peepers and cruise ships. Jeanne Gross mentioned to Bob that the revenues for the Lighthouse Gift Shop and Museum were down in July and August. Overall the park looks good.

Park:

There was some graffiti down on the rocks below and in front of where the civil defense bunker is located. You really could only see it from the water, but was noticeable to boat traffic. A gentlemen stepped forward and volunteer to paint over it and completed the job.

Bob also reported that the sea saws at the playground were intact and were fine.

Main Entrance work is well under way. The southerly portion is up and stone work is being worked on and should be completed in about three to four weeks. Question arose about what would be put where the gates are presently while the pillars were being erected. We will be placing barrels across the front.

Bleachers:

Consultant contacted the Historic Preservation Board. Should be no real issue. They would like to see some sort of replacement. The consultants were meeting on Friday to do some brain storming on the bleachers, batteries and Goddard Mansion.

Interpretive Display:

Panels were ordered and will be completed in eight weeks. We will be putting them in after the winter; early spring time frame. Also we will plan a dedication. Bob spoke with Kitty's son regarding the panels going up in the area of Kitty's Point. He was fine with the idea and would like to attend the dedication.

The hardscaping and access work will give some attention to ADA accessibility.

Arboretum Demonstration Project:

They will be going to the planning board on Tuesday, October 21. Charitable Foundation stated they are interested in giving some funding to the project. They would like to break ground in early spring. First phase is anticipated to be \$70K. For all phases to be completed it is anticipated to cost approximately \$350K. One commission member questioned this amount, but some of the bubbles are smaller than others so, overall, the feeling is that is a generally accurate figure.

While discussing the Charitable Foundation's interest in the project, someone asked if Chuck knew what funds they presently were holding. Per notes from the last meeting, \$5K checking account, \$12,800 in CD and \$70K in Vanguard account.

Fees and Regulations for Weddings and Partnership Ceremonies:

Bob read from the draft Ordinance changes proposed by the Town Council regarding having weddings. This triggered our review of the Statement of Group and Commercial Uses for Fort Williams Park. We reviewed the new draft proposal with the addition of fees and rules for ceremonies. One member questioned why we would charge a fee for a ceremony if the group was going to rent the shelter or bandstand, etc. General discussion ensued and a motion was brought.

Motion was made to approve the revision to the Statement of Group and Commercial Uses for Fort Williams Park which includes a \$50.00 fee for weddings or partnership ceremonies.

Moved by Chuck, seconded by Bill:

All voted in favor.

Smoking Policy:

The Town Council voted on the Commission recommendation to put up signage in three areas "for no littering". The vote was 3 to 3 so it did not pass. They are still concerned about smoking and, in particular, on the Lighthouse property inside the fence. They would like signs were the buses park, the ball fields and the play ground.

Motion was made:

Commission will go along with the Town Council's suggestion on "Thank you for No Smoking" signs to be placed at the playgrounds, athletic fields, bus drop-off area and Lighthouse property. Signage to be left to the discretion of the Public Works Director.

Six voted for, one voted against.

Reappointments:

Bill Nickerson and Maureen McCarthy have requested with Debra Lane to be reappointed to the Commission.

Replacement:

This is Tina Harnden's last year on the Commission. It was suggested that if anyone already serving on the Commission knew of potential candidates who had an interest or passion about the Fort and they would recommend, that we let them know they should apply for appointment.

December Meeting:

Originally we moved the meeting to December 11th, however, one member could not make it. We felt that since we would be discussing and working on our suggestions regarding the consultants' work to the Town Council, that everyone needed to attend the meeting. It was moved back to the original 12/18 date.

General Discussion:

Chuck requested that everyone think about their expectations as to the renovation/reuse of the bleachers and the future of the Goddard Mansion so that we would be prepared to talk with the consultants at our November meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen McCarthy,
Secretary