

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Fort Williams Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2009

Present: Dan Chase (Chair), Bill Brownell, Maureen McCarthy, Bill Nickerson, Chuck Wilson

Absent: Frank Butterworth

Also: Richard Dunham, 2010 Commission member; Lois Carlson, Fort Williams Charitable Foundation; Jeanne Gross, PHL Museum and Gift Shop; Greg Gordon, InterCruises; and Jerry Goodall, Maine Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society

Staff: Bob Malley

Call to order: Meeting called to order by Dan Chase at 7:00 in the Public Works Conference Room. Dan welcomed Richard Dunham who has been appointed to the Commission beginning in January.

Minutes:

Upon motion by Chuck Wilson, seconded by Maureen McCarthy the minutes of the November 19th meeting were unanimously approved.

Park Up-date:

Bob reported that the Park is relatively quiet this time of year, which is normal. There have been a few occasions when the gate has not been closed until sometime after 5 pm, and Bob will speak to Chief Williams about that. Bob has begun to receive some "Use Requests" for calendar year 2010, which will be considered by the Commission at the January meeting. A large holiday wreath was donated by an anonymous person(s) and put onto the Headlight by the Coast Guard.

Budget:

Bob had nothing significant to report, except that he has yet to receive the invoice from GPCOG for the traffic survey.

Discussion of Bus Fees:

Greg Gordon, the Operations Manager, Tour Programs, for InterCruises, who arranges for and coordinates the tour buses for cruise ship tourists, made a presentation in which he spoke about his concern that the proposed \$40-\$50 bus fee could have a adverse impact on the number of buses coming to the Park. He said that on average, there are

between 10-15 buses for every cruise ship. As has been discussed at previous meetings, these buses represent a significant source of revenue for the PHL Museum and Gift Shop. Mr. Gordon informed the Commission that a similar bus fee that was imposed in Kennebunkport resulted in fewer tour buses visiting that town. Instead of a bus fee, he suggested that a \$1.00 per passenger be imposed. He reminded the Commission that notice of whatever decision is ultimately made by the Council must be received by the cruise/tour companies 18 months prior to implementation. (Later in the meeting the Commission discussed the concerns raised by Mr. Gordon yet agreed not to change the recommendation it has already made to the Town Council).

Discussion of Proposed Plantings Near the Pond:

Jerry Goodall, representing the Maine Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society (ARS), made a presentation regarding a proposal to plant a grove of rhododendrons and azaleas in the area of the pond at the Park. Although the initial planting and much of the general maintenance would be at the expense of the Maine Chapter of ARS, some concern was raised about perpetual care and maintenance issues. Moreover, there was concern that Chapter members had not shared their proposal with the members of the Arboretum Committee. Recognizing the merit to much of the proposal, Chuck suggested, and the Commission members agreed, that any new plantings should be part of the already approved Arboretum plan and that Mr. Goodall should contact the Arboretum Committee and seek to partner with them in any such undertaking. In this regard, Mr. Goodall was given contact information for Kathy Bacastow and John Mitchell.

Fort Williams Charitable Foundation:

Lois reported that in January the Foundation will receive the final report on the feasibility study to determine whether or not the FWCF should undertake an endowment campaign.

Election of Officers:

Upon motion by Chuck Wilson, seconded by Bill Brownell, Maureen McCarty was unanimously elected Chairperson for 2010 and Bill Nickerson was unanimously elected Vice-Chair. On motion by Bill Nickerson, seconded by Chuck Wilson, Frank Butterworth was unanimously elected Secretary for 2010.

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 21st.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Brownell