

**TOWN OF CAPE ELIZABETH**  
**FORT WILLIAMS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

Minutes: February 19, 2015

**Present**

Lise Pratt (Chair), Terry Ann Scriven (Vice-Chair), Chris Corbett, Mark Russell, Christopher Straw, Jim Walsh (Town Council liason) and staff member Bob Malley. Also in attendance were Bob Ayotte (FWPF), John Mitchell (Mitchell & Associates), Mary Ellen Whiteman, Chuck Brakeley and Frank Governali from the public.

**Call to order**

Lise called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

**Approval of minutes**

Minutes of the January meeting were corrected in minor wording to reflect that the Commission “sometimes takes a summer month or two and sometime December off.” Jim Walsh noted that the town council is currently working on a plan to formalize the minute taking process.

**Citizen Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda**

Lise explained that the commission would follow formal discussion “rules for public participation at meetings”. She explained the format for this meeting as allowing 3 minutes for comments from each member of the public who chose to speak. Mary Ellen Whiteman of Shore Road was pleased that swings were being replaced but saw no reason for moving swings and saw no safety concern in using old location. Chuck Brakeley of Stonegate noted that swings were close to picnic areas and that locating the swings in close proximity to families seemed important to him. The view from the old location was quite scenic and important to him. Frank Governali of Old Ocean House Rd. expressed disappointment that this meeting was held in poor weather discouraging public participation, that we should have solicited public opinion, that safety was of concern to him and that the best vista of all was kids on these swings.

**Fort Williams Foundation Update**

Bob Ayotte reported that 2 new board members, Emily Garvin and Kara Leopold were appointed bringing the board membership up to 13. The annual appeal was wrapping up, raising \$62,000 from some 300 donors. This \$\$ total was less than a targeted goal of \$75,000 reflecting what Bob suggested as donor fatigue. The Spring Appeal begins in March. The Children’s Garden appeal is to begin soon. A goal of \$400,000 is approx. 60% collected. The 5<sup>th</sup> annual garden tour will be held 6/20 with proceeds to benefit ongoing operations of the foundation. Works continues w/ the 250<sup>th</sup>

anniversary committee on a Portland Symphony concert on 7/25 w/ proceeds to benefit the Children's Garden. Up to 3,000 tickets will be sold. The process of finalizing plans to remove several Norway maples under supervision of Mike Duddy (Town Tree Warden) is under way. Proper notification of the public is to be given.

### **Park Update**

Bob Malley reported that the snow storms and deep drifts are hampering traffic in the park. He noted that Engine One had w/drawn support for the Labor Day Art Show and indicates that they were looking for another non-profit sponsor. The National Trooper's Coalition had requested use of the park for an outing on 9/10/15.

### **Meeting Tasks and Goals for 2015**

Lise asked that we should note an agenda item for March will involve some homework... reviewing the Master Plan to individually come up with 3-5 priorities or themes. She suggested a workshop w/ the Town Council to revisit and possibly tweak Master Plan ideas. A suggestion that there could be 2 May meetings, the first being a site walk of the park, the second being a workshop w/ the foundation to cover future partnerships going forward. At the June meeting discussions would involve reviewing the group use policy, looking to make any new recommendations to Town Council. Terry Ann suggested looking at process on how decisions are made and how priorities are set.

### **Propose Bleacher Improvements- Review and Comment on Design**

With John Mitchell in attendance to answer questions Lise explained that for many years the bleachers have been beyond repair. A 2008-09 study estimated replacement cost at between \$75,000 and \$450,000. Sept. 2014 work discussed 3 plan ideas (A-C) for the site. Frank Governali looked at this project as a "high priority" w/ safety as a major concern. Chuck Brakeley suggested spending the needed \$\$ to get it done and get it done right. Discussion by all centred on re-examining Plan C and to take a 50,000 foot view of project and all space in the park. Jim Walsh suggested reviewing the plan decided on by the Commission in November before going to Town Council w/ recommendations. Lise mentioned that there are reasons to move project forward because of current conditions. Terry Ann said there should be more public involvement, input and opinion. John Mitchell pointed out that these plans were conceptual designs and not construction drawings.

### **Ship Cove Swing Replacement Discussion**

Lise gave an overview noting that the swing set failed a safety test in December. Guidelines suggested movement to a new area accommodating flat 72ft. by 40ft location. Safety, access, aesthetics, cost, timeline and public opinion should be considered in all discussions. Bob Malley relayed a conversation w/ Ben McDougal, the Code Enforcement Officer, pointing out that the swings could be located within 60 feet of approved sites w/o need for new site plan review. Frank Governali questioned where the guidelines and requirements came in to play. Chuck Brakeley said any plantings should not block view. Chris Straw noted that his family and friends' families and newer families in CE have used new playground. Additional comments from Chris Corbett, Chris Straw, Mark and Terry Ann noted that safety, cost and some public opinion in

favor of not moving swings from current location needed to be taken into consideration. A motion made to replace swings was proposed and passed 5-0. After additional discussion a motion to table decision of new swings' location passed on a 3-2 vote. Mr. Corbett excused himself and left meeting at 9:45. A Chris Straw proposal to allocate \$20,000 for swings in the 2016 budget was voted down 3-1.

**FY 2016 Capital Budget Proposal Discussion**

Bob Malley outlined process to FWAC budget, noting that Town Manager suggested some attempt to level fund larger projects over time to assist Town Council in budgeting deliberations. There was consensus to place \$150,000 as a placeholder in budget to aid in further plans for the bleacher project. At 10:16 Terry Ann excused herself from further discussion leaving the commission without a quorum. Lise noted that we would need to reconvene to pass a budget before 3/20 to further along to Town Council. No further budget business was taken up.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Russell