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Robert Malley <robert.malley@capeelizabeth.org>

Re: proposed fee increase for Motor Coaches

1 message

Michael McGovern <michael.mcgovern@capeelizabeth.org>

Mon, Mar 28, 2016 at 11:30 AM

To: Jeanne Gross <cephl@aol.com>

Cc: Bob Malley <Robert.malley@capeelizabeth.org>, Molly MacAuslan <vhintlian@aol.com>

Dear Jeanne,

Thank you for this input. I am forwarding it to Bob to share as part of the next packet for the Fort Williams Advisory Commission. I will also share it with the council as they consider the FWAC recommendation.

I am not surprised by your viewpoint as I fully share your concerns.

Mike

On Mon, Mar 28, 2016 at 10:59 AM, <cephl@aol.com> wrote:

Dear Mike,

After considering the proposed fee increase for Motor Coach Parking from \$40.00 to \$55.00, seems excessive.

We interact directly everyday from June 1 through October 31 with Motor coaches visiting Portland Head Light. Ever since the parking fee was initiated in 2012 there has been constant, negative, feedback from the tour operators. At \$40.00 they feel the Town of Cape Elizabeth is taking advantage of people just wanting to view the iconic lighthouse of Maine. These operators make the point to us that they are not using the park and their visit is so short at 30-35 minutes. See the lighthouse, view the rocky coastline and smell the wonderful ocean air is all that they are interested in doing at this stop.

We want to keep the Motor Coach business as they contribute heavily to the profits at the gift shop. Many of these Motor Coaches are from local companies and they will not be happy with a rate increase much less this large at more than 30%. Perhaps increasing the Parking Fee to just \$50.00 beginning in 2017 and assuring the bus operators that the fee will remain at this level for at least 5 years will be more palatable to them. They will be able to better project their expenses and profit margins for the near future. Some tour companies only visit once every few years, it takes this amount of time for them to become aware of price changes.

Our department is responsible for collecting the Parking Fees and we have to very carefully and respectfully deal with these disgruntled tour companies. The greeters have done an exceptional job but let's not make their job impossible.

Jeanne

Jeanne Gross

Museum at Portland Head Light