

## Russell, Mark (RBC Wealth Mgmt)

---

**From:** Ellen Russell <merussell@maine.rr.com>  
**Sent:** March 21, 2016 12:11 PM  
**To:** Russell, Mark (RBC Wealth Mgmt)  
**Subject:** Fwd: letting you know & transparency, and public process

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Dr. Scriven, Max Health Maine" <maxhealthme@me.com>  
**Subject:** letting you know & transparency, and public process  
**Date:** March 20, 2016 at 9:19:36 PM EDT  
**To:** Mark Russell <merussell@maine.rr.com>

Dear Mark,

I wanted to first thank you for your work on FWAC this year.

Also wanted to let you know that after trying to touch base with you several times in the last month, knowing you've been busy as well as had a loss in family, not hearing back yet, I did reach out to Molly McCauslan, at the suggestion of others, regarding all town agendas needing more detail for transparency and informing the public adequately. I understand this even more now that I am reading them as a citizen without background. I hope you think this is a reasonable request. I know a little about FWAC, but many people have no idea what is going on. It is not clear from an uninformed citizens perspective, what is going to be decided upon via the agenda of upcoming meetings. Thus there's no way someone interested in the basketball court for example could know to come to last week's meeting, if they wanted to advocate for the basketball court to be revamped this year. You all spent 20 minutes or more on that item.

Mike, also I felt rising concern listening to the last meeting: that FWAC was working so hard to reflect what "Mike McGovern *wants*" in its recommendations to the council, rather than what the FWAC is chartered to do, which is to provide *independent* recommendations to the Town Council having studied the Fort needs, and recommend what is best for the Fort.. in *your* opinion. Town employees, including the Town Manager, of course have their own opinions, but should not be influencing the recommendations of independent committees behind the scenes, or between meetings, out of the public eye (thought they are sometimes invited to meetings when committee members have questions or need for data) and they have ample and copious opportunities to present their information and opinions to the Town Counselors. It's disturbing, and against the stated purpose to hear the FWAC trying to figure out "what Mike McGovern wants" - which was the focus of over 1/2 of the last meeting. Please consider this seriously.

This is not your charter as FWAC. I urge you to continue providing consensus opinions regarding what is best for the Fort, as your leadership has encouraged; and leave adjusting, approving, or rejecting those proposals up to the Town Council, not Mike, and not Bob, despite their value as resources. Bob should be just that - a resource, not someone who is directing your decisions. If the Town Council that created FWAC wanted to be directed by Bob's and Mike's opinions they would not have created FWAC. They wanted a group of citizens that would study and provide recommendations independently. That is the design of our Town Government! The Town Manager should not be giving FWAC directives to change your opinion before the Town Council hears your recommendations. This is out of order. In stead he should simply be free to tell them: "this is the budget

FWAC recommended, but "I think you should approve it minus the 50,000.00 for example, because I'm worried about the reserves". Something appears to be grossly out of order for an independent committee that has a charter to give independent recommendations, to be trying to interpret what Mike McGovern, a town employee wants... or intended to tell you what to do.

Finally, please consider providing complete, (more) supporting information for meetings for the public. Most of our information from work last year was completely missing. We took pains to bring documents & things we researched in to meetings to make them available to the public. They were never uploaded. I was criticized for investigating things (educating myself between meetings) - but it is legally very clear: as long as one brings it in to meeting, and share with public its fine... and should be accessible to the public.

Finally, -As a member of the public, to have no idea what "emails" and "email chain" "changing the direction of the commission recommendation and budget", or what these emails were all referred to that changed your course, leaves the members of the public in the dark. The meeting's conversation certainly alluded to the fact that public business and policy had been done in private, between public meetings, --not where it is supposed to happen.

Public deliberation and "work" in the Town of Cape Elizabeth is supposed to be done in public, and only scheduling and procedural matters should be between meetings. Judging from the discussion, direction or directives had changed between meetings via some private series of communications/emails that all but the public knew about. Unlike Jessica Sullivan and Kathy Ray, I do not feel that we should have to mount FOAA requests to see emails, or understand what has gone on between meetings.

Would you kindly consider asking Bob to post town policy email exchanges you all are receiving between meetings, that you'll be discussing & proposals that members bring in or submit as supporting documents the public can see?

Feel free to return my call any time, — unfortunately during business hours its hard for me to pick up..

Thanks for all your continued work Mark, and the careful thoughtful job that the commission is doing this year.

I appreciate the job you are doing leading. It's nice to have you running the meetings, and free not to have to focus on the minutes anymore - that is quite a job.

Good luck with the budget meeting

Terry Ann