To: Michael McGovern, Town Manager and

Members of the Cape Elizabeth Town Council

From: Lise Pratt, Chair of Fort Williams Advisory Commission

Date: October 13, 2015

Re: Tennis and Pickleball Courts

On behalf of the members of the Fort Williams Advisory Commission, I am submitting a request for your assistance in developing options to provide facilities in the community that will accommodate the needs of both tennis and Pickleball players.

Pickleball is a relatively new sport to this area, but is growing rapidly in popularity. It is a racquet and net sport that is played on a court which fits in one half of a tennis court. In the spring of 2014, FWAC approved a request from local Pickleball players to paint lines for that game on the “upper” tennis court (between the picnic shelter and playground); that court was successfully shared by tennis and Pickleball players, with no complaints reported, throughout the 2014 season. In May 2015, we approved a request from the same group of Pickleball players to paint lines on the two “lower” tennis courts (by the pond) on a one-year trial basis. We agreed to review the results of the two sports sharing these courts over the course of the 2015 season and consider the best policy going forward.

We have received a lot of feedback from tennis and Pickleball players alike about how the trial period is going: at a special meeting with players representing the two groups, from emails, from comments at our regular meetings, and from input on comment cards at the courts, etc. The introduction of Pickleball has raised questions about facilities use in the Park. It has also become clear that accommodating this new sport should be considered on a community-wide basis, that it is not an issue we can or should resolve within the Park alone.

We are, therefore, turning to you for help in reviewing options for facilities for these two sports before we consider recommending any change in policy for the Park courts for the 2016 season. Specifically, we ask that you review the use of all town courts, including those in the Park, and develop a plan to accommodate both Pickleball and tennis in this community.