

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Community Services Committee
Meeting Minutes
8/13/25

Attending: Andrea Ernst (AE), Becky Bryant (BB), Megan Rogers (MR1), Megan Roy (MR2), and Christine Syska (CS)

Absent: Debbie Grew and Jill Palmore

Meeting opened at 5:31 pm - Kathy Raftice

Public Comment & Correspondence - None

Approval of draft minutes from May 14, 2025

Motion by CS to approve minutes, second by MR2. Motion passed (4 – Yes, 0 – No).

CECS Updates

Cape resident Open Lighthouse Day was a success/not as popular as last year but we will continue to offer. KR brought the committee up to date on the Cape Soccer Club meeting. KR shared the new brochure and reminded that registration opens on 8/24 at 8:00 pm. The wish list is now open. KR then discussed the involvement of our committee members with other clubs within the town (i.e. Cape Hoops, Cape Soccer Club, Cape Arena, and CELL). The thought is that a member attends a meeting with one of the groups, shares what Community Services is doing and asks how we can work together for a positive outcome for all in town. Committee discussed. Some in favor of attending. KR would write a letter to the President of each group and ask if they are okay with the attendance. KR will get back to committee.

Youth – Susan Frost

KR brought the committee up to date on Dana leaving and the job opening at Community Services. Our specialty camps have been going well and will wrap up next week. Susan has been working on new offerings and has collaborated with the Middle School to offer MS Volleyball this fall. Kudos to Susan for coordinating this new effort. Some additional new classes offered are, Outdoor Club, Song Wizards Workshop, Nature Bing, Ultimate Frisbee and she has been collaborating with Cape Hoops and Cape Middle School on a new and different set-up for basketball.

Adults – Linda Strunk

KR shared that the passport processing continues to be strong and we are now at 245 passports processed and \$7500 in new revenue! Linda continues to keep this process up to date and moving smoothly. Some new adult classes this fall are Pilates, Men Add Strength, Jeti Fit at Fort Williams, Breathing through Stress, Listening to Nature, Calligraphy, Embroidery, Retirement classes, Social Security, All things Medicare and Advanced Care Planning. A nice well-rounded assortment!

Seniors/Marketing – Jane Anderson

Jane has been working on a new assortment of offerings for our aging population. The most popular tend to be plays and she has a variety of options. Additionally there are lunches, museums, the Magic of Christmas and White Christmas. She continues to offer the free drop-ins and monthly completes both a senior and general community newsletter.

Pool & Fitness – Andrew Kemp

KR shared that the Pool & Fitness will reopen on Wednesday, August 20. We are reoffering the private lessons and have purchased some new equipment. KR shared with the committee that Andrew was recognized for 15 years of service at the annual town appreciation day!

Cape Care and Summer Camp – Kelly Phinney

Summer camp was a success. Kelly hired a great staff and all went very well. Kelly Phinney is presently on her white water rafting trip with the middle school age group, which is a very popular trip! This week we have offered specialty day trips. This helps working parents. KR shared that the PreK and Preschool teachers are back the week of August 24 with a student start day after Labor Day. KR also shared with the committee that Kelly received recognition for her 20 years of service at the annual town appreciation day!

Fort Williams/PHL Update

Graduation and Family Fun Fest – all went well. KR shared that the B2B went as smoothly as it could. Everyone was much happier than last year. Weather was perfect. KR shared there is a new food vendor at the park – C-salt. Committee discussed the advertised Ranger Walk & Talks. KR shared they have been very popular and Dom will be further developing this winter. The busy bus season is beginning with the busiest months (due to cruise ships and leaf peepers) in September and October. We will be celebrating the last Sounds by the Sea for the season on Monday, August 25. KR explained how the FWPC is moving through the Planning Board process. There are a few steps involved but once completed it will make things move more smoothly in the future.

The PHL opened on Memorial Day weekend and the gift shop sales and museum visits have shown an increase over last year. The volunteers do a fabulous job and if anyone is interested in volunteering, please let me know. KR informed the group that Maine Open Lighthouse Day is Saturday, September 13.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Raftice