

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Community Services Committee
Meeting Minutes
10/8/25

Attending: Becky Bryant (BB), Debbie Grew (DG), Jill Palmore (JP), Megan Rogers (MR1), and Christine Syska (CS)

Absent: Andrea Ernst and Megan Roy

Meeting opened at 5:35 pm - Kathy Raftice

Public Comment & Correspondence - None

Approval of draft minutes from August 13, 2025

Motion by CS to approve minutes, seconded by BB. Motion passed (5 – Yes, 0 – No).

CECS Updates

KR reported that the Fall registration process went smoothly. Although there are still some waitlists, efforts were made to accommodate as many participants as possible. CECS is collaborating with various town departments and local businesses for the upcoming Trunk or Treat event, which is scheduled for October 24 from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Participants in this event include Jordan's Farm, Tammara Landscaping, LP Murray and Sons, the Veterinary and Rehabilitation Clinic of Cape Elizabeth, as well as representatives from Cape Facilities, Police, Fire, and Public Works.

Additionally, KR mentioned that tickets for the Maine Mariners game on January 4 are available for sale online, during which Cape Elizabeth will receive recognition. There will also be drawings for additional benefits, including an opportunity to skate with the team after the game.

Youth – Susan Frost

Youth registrations have been exceptionally strong this time around. X-Country had 69 kids register, and they will hold the meet at Fort Williams on October 15. Other classes also saw good participation, with the following number of registrants: Legos – 40, Chess – 18 and 20, Karate – 30, and Musical Theater – 26.

A new activity that received strong positive feedback was the Outdoor Club, in collaboration with the Police Department. Participants canoed the Spurwink River, biked the Eastern Trail, and finished with a climb of Portland Head Light. We will definitely offer this program again. MR1 shared her positive feedback on this program.

Susan Frost, along with Jeff Mitchell and Jon Ruterbories, met with those interested in basketball to discuss the various options available. This meeting was well received, and we look forward to continued collaboration. Additionally, we introduced a new program

for Middle School Volleyball as part of Community Service programming. The program had 22 registrants and was a success. MR1 asked if there is consideration of additional MS programming. I said we had tried some programs without success, and asked if she had some suggestions I could bring back to Susan. She mentioned an after-school art program. KR will share with Susan Frost.

Adults – Linda Strunk

Linda is working on the next brochure with a cover due soon. Watch for a new layout. Passport production continues strongly, and we anticipate exceeding the budgeted numbers and funds.

Seniors/Marketing – Jane Anderson

Jane coordinated a return of the “Seniors Back to School Redo” on October 22. She has been working with Nate Carpenter from the high school. Additionally, they have collaborated on a dinner and talk night on November 19. There will be a Jazz Trio performing.

Pool & Fitness – Andrew Kemp

The pool and fitness center reopened as planned. KR shared that there is a Bluefish swim meet on 10/24 & 10/25. There is some new equipment coming to the fitness center, and we have received new timing touchpads for the pool. As previously discussed, we have again begun private swim lessons.

Cape Care and Summer Camp – Kelly Phinney

Preschool & PreK teachers returned the last week in August and we had a successful meeting with the Superintendent and staff regarding the coming school year. PreK teachers will participate in some professional development offered by the State and when appropriate, with our school staff. Kelly has hired her aftercare staff and we now have an adult working 5 days a week from 2:30 – 5:30 pm!

Fort Williams/PHL Update

KR explained the Planning Board process for the work to continue at Fort Williams. They have now approved the Master Plan Site Plan for most projects. (Picnic Pavilion and Playground). Projects that require more extensive site work will still need to go before the board. KR shared that bus visits have been strong again this season. The next couple of weeks will be very busy in the park before wrapping up at the end of October.

The museum and gift shop have had increased revenue over last season. The goal is to close near the end of October, dependent upon merchandise and volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Raftice