

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Community Services Committee
Meeting Minutes
12/10/25

Attending: Andrea Ernst (AE), Debbie Grew (DG), Jill Palmore (JP), Megan Roy (MR2), and Christine Syska (CS)

Absent: Becky Bryant and Meg Rogers

Meeting opened at 5:35 pm - Kathy Raftice

Public Comment & Correspondence - None

Approval of draft minutes from October 8, 2025

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

CECS Updates

KR provided an update on the Trunk or Treat from Oct 24. Nice to have other town vendors participate. Many attendees. We will continue to invite other companies. She shared a reminder about the Town Center Tree Lighting on Friday, Dec 12 at 6:00 pm. CECS will have a table. KR also reminded the committee about the Maine Mariners game on Sunday, Jan 4, and the team skate after. Tickets can be purchased online via link. KR shared that there are fireworks scheduled at Fort Williams on Saturday, Feb 28!

Winter registration opens for residents on Sunday, Dec 22 @ 8:00 pm. The committee asked if you could still use the payment plan for the second session. KR clarified yes, for youth programs.

KR shared the inclement weather policy with the committee. She explained that we follow the school for consistency. The committee all agreed on too many differences and people will be confused. Stick to one.

KR shared that the painting is complete on the exterior of the building, with a new sign out front and the preschool room is to be painted during Holiday break. She also shared the mural work by Phaedra Schmidt. The committee had very positive feedback on the murals!

Youth – Susan Frost & Jeff Weisser

Jeff is adjusting to his new role. KR clarified what he will be responsible for: basketball, lacrosse, tennis, and summer camps. Busy times.

KR discussed the successful x-country meet at FW. Dom Walker (FWP), staff assisted, and teams love competing at such a beautiful venue.

Adults – Linda Strunk

Linda is already working on the next brochure. Facing challenges with our format...MR2 offered to assist if she could. This is her field. KR will have Linda reach out to her! KR shared that the passport revenue since inception is \$10k!

Seniors/Marketing – Jane Anderson

KR shared the success of the fall season! All trips this fall were a go. She discussed the Back to School Redo and the Table Talk with dinner and music details. The committee was happy to hear the positive. CS asked about the age requirement. KR clarified that most are offered to 62 + however, others are always welcome.

Pool & Fitness – Andrew Kemp

The HS season has begun with swim meets on Friday nights. The schedule is posted online.

KR explained what the cyclones program is and how it began. She shared details on lead instructor, Alina Perez and that South Portland has a similar offering. We try to schedule a swim meet with them for each session.

Cape Care and Summer Camp – Kelly Phinney

Kelly is preparing for the very popular Pleasant Mountain program. The program filled on the evening of registration (100 kiddos). She will have an informational Zoom call on Thursday, January 8 and the program begins on Thursday, January 15!

KR shared that our December vacation camp was cancelled due to low enrollment. AE shared how many parents take that week off for family.

Fort Williams/PHL Update

KR informed the committee that resident reservations opened for FW on 12/01/2025 and non-resident reservations open on 1/1/2026. That gives residents a month to reserve before others. KR shared the regular use requests for 2026 have been submitted and will be reviewed by the FWPC on 12/17.

KR brought the committee up to date on work taking place at Goddard Mansion. She shared that the playground RFP is complete and to be sent out in the next week.

The committee discussed how this is a quiet time of year at the park. KR shared that Dom is now inside and will be doing talks on the park...in the brochure.

KR shared that the season at PHL was a success. Already meeting with vendors on merchandise for next season. She shared that the lighted wreath is up on the tower and three wreaths are on the windows of the house!

Meeting adjourned at 6:33 pm
Respectfully submitted, Kathy Raftice