

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Fort Williams Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 16, 2025**

Present: Lauren Springer (LS) Chair, Terry Bagley (TB), Curtis Kelly (CK), Jim Kerney (JK), Dennis Liener (DL), Ken Pierce (KP), and Doreen Theriault (DT)

Staff: Kathy Raftice, (KR) Community Services and Fort Williams Park Director, Andrea Southworth (AS), Friends of Fort Williams and Dominic Walker, Fort Williams Park Supervisor (DW)

Call to Order: LS called meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Welcome New Member

LS welcomed new member Dennis Leiner. Dennis shared some history about himself and that he is looking forward to working on the committee.

FWPC 2025 Chair Vote

LS shared that she would like to serve as the chair for an additional year. Motion by CK, second by TB Motion passed (7 – Yes, 0 – No).

Public Comment Opportunity for Discussion of Items Not on the Agenda

None

Approval of December 12, 2024 Meeting Draft Minutes

Motion by JK to approve the December 12, 2024 draft minutes, second by KP. Motion passed (7 – Yes, 0 – No).

Friends of Fort Williams Update

AS shared her Ecology report for January. CK asked about the native seed-sowing workshop. FOF working on budget and site maintenance for next season. AS communicated that the Cape Elizabeth Garden Tour will be Saturday, July 19.

FOAA Training

KR had sent out presentation and FAQ to all members. Discussion on pertinent points. Any future questions will go through KR for clarification.

Disc Golf – revisit

KR shared that Mr. Grew is asking for a consideration on the use of the multipurpose field for permanent baskets. Committee all agreed that would not be an alternative. KR will communicate with Mr. Grew.

USS Eagle Ceremony Request

KR shared Mike Dery's email regarding the 80th Eagle Celebration for April 23, 2025. Only the initial ask for date received and we have reserved the space. Committee in agreement with event however, additional details will be needed. KR will be in communication with Mike.

Revisit 2025 Regular Use Request for CEHS Graduation

KR brought committee up to date on CEHS graduation request to move to the Green. KR shared her conversation with Town Manager followed by discussion with HS Principal, John Springer. School had an ADA consultant visit the park and look at alternative locations. Discussion on shuttles from parking lots, portable toilets, vendors, parking, buses, and how students entrance. Principal Springer or a representative would like to attend a meeting to discuss further. JK shared concerns about the state of the grass on the Green and bringing PW into discussion. No large concerns by committee however, in agreement more details needed. KR will also ask PD and PW to attend future meeting.

Revisit FY 26 Budget Discussion

KR shared estimate from Knowles for the necessary bleacher repairs, which totals \$230k. The committee discussed this, particularly in light of the recent request from CEHS. Everyone agreed to budget only the removal costs, amounting to \$38k. The committee then had further discussion regarding Goddard Mansion. KR shared town concerns with the fund balance and noted there was no solid plan for the Goddard property. The committee agreed to reduce the budget for this project to \$47,500 and to explore feasible options for its use. KR will follow up with the committee regarding the date of the Town Council workshop to discuss FW projects - Goddard Mansion and Powers Road. JK feels we should go through all the budgeted projects and assign a committee member to each to assist with moving the projects forward. KP and CK commented that they would like to continue with Goddard to work on a reasonable solution. DL feels a reasonable compromise is necessary.

Motion by LS to approve FY26 Budget submission with above changes, second by JK. Motion passed (7 – Yes, 0 – No).

Public Comment Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda – None

Motion to adjourn by CK, second by KP. Motion passed (7 – Yes, 0 – No). The meeting adjourned @ 7:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Raftice.