

**Town of Cape Elizabeth
Fort Williams Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 15, 2023**

Present: Ken Pierce (KP) Chair, Jim Kerney (JimK), Mark Russell (MR), Lauren Springer (LS) and Doreen Theriault (DT)

Absent: Jon Dienstag and Suzanne McGinn

Staff: Chris Cutter (CC), FWP Coordinator, Kathy Raftice, (KR) Community Services and Fort Williams Park Director and Andrea Southworth (AS), Friends of Fort Williams

Call to Order: JimK called meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Public Comment Opportunity for Discussion of Items Not on the Agenda - None

Approval of May 18, 2023 Draft Meeting Minutes

Motion by MR to approve the May 18, 2023 Meeting Draft minutes, second by DT. Motion passed (4 – Yes, 0 – No). KP arrived after vote.

FWP Updates

KR shared discussion on the protection of Fort Williams Park and the Town Council workshop that was held on Monday, June 5th. Following the workshop of 6/5 and the Town Council meeting on 6/12, KR received an email from SM stating the following:

I would suggest to our committee that we ask the council to formally vote on removing the Fort from the list of potential housing locations, even though the HDSC took it off their list of potential sites. It would give closure to the issue.

I know we are to talk about next steps for investigating preservation of the park. I would like to see the town use Bernstein, Shur, the town's new legal representation, to review all of the deeds pertaining to the Fort to determine what areas are legally permanently preserved/conserved, and what areas are not. What legal vehicle would they suggest the town adopt to ensure the entire Fort is preserved only as a park, as well as restricting a sale of any of the land, and prevent future development besides daytime park use? I believe the Council is still looking to our committee to come up with a recommendation, so I would suggest we enlist the town's law firm to review the current legal status of the entire Fort Williams, and provide recommendations on options on how to preserve the park as a park in perpetuity.

KR shared the above with Jeremy Gabrielson, Town Council Chair and he suggested the recommendation come to the Town Council from the FWPC.

Motion by JimK to submit to the Town Council the request to allocate funds for Bernstein, Shur complete a review the current legal status of Fort Williams Park and provide recommendations on how to preserve the park in perpetuity, second by DT. Motion passed (4-Yes, 0-No) KP arrived after the vote.

KR brought committee up to date on Portable Water Filling Stations. Installment delayed as PW feels more work needed than originally thought. Committee discussed and agreed installation needs to happen sooner rather than later. KR will reach out to vendors to determine if this can be done and what the cost will be.

Powers Road Feasibility Study Kick-Off – Will Haskell and guests

Will Haskell, Gorrill Palmer began presentation with introduction of other members of his group involved in the Powers Road Feasibility Study Kick-off. Todd Richardson began with an overall discussion on Powers Road and the goals and objectives from the Master Plan. Bob Malley, Gorrill Palmer spoke to the historical improvements to Powers Road. Then Will Haskell spoke about the many different users of Powers Road and the need to seek input from them. There was discussion about the fee structure for business vehicles using the park and how that was developed. Discussion about finding the right price. DT shared how buses are there 40 minutes and we don't want to encourage cars over buses. CC shared that the current volume is manageable. If buses were to stop coming the cars would be overwhelming. JimK feels the controls have been better than ever. Will continued with a Round Table discussion on pros and cons of the Powers Road corridor. MR shared his concern/opinion regarding the Community Campus area and the increase in traffic to that area. He emphasized the Master Plan is a 10 year plan. Discussion around the entrance from Shore Road. Development of promenades as you enter. May involve building up the hill to the meadow. Bob Malley shared the information about the underground electricity below the guardrail. It is not active but important that it is there. The group discussed the rotary outside the entrance and the positive impact it would have for pedestrians as well. The team and FWPC discussed entrance options. A few smaller items discussed; speed bumps, painting the curbing, crosswalks, etc. Will explained next steps for their team to visit the park and report back to FWPC in August. (Discussion slides attached)

Public Comment Opportunity for Discussion of Items on the Agenda

Tom Dunham, 11 Becky's Cove Lane, Cape Elizabeth. He shared he attended the Town Council Workshop and he walked away concerned. He feels the protection of Fort Williams Park should go to referendum.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm. The team agreed to no meeting in July so the next meeting: Thursday, August 17 @ 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Raftice