

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Fort Williams Park Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 26, 2025

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

Absent: None

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

Call to Order: LS called meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

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

Approval of May 15, 2025 Meeting Draft Minutes

Motion by JK to approve the May 15, 2025 draft minutes, second by TB. Motion passed (7 – Yes, 0 – No). KP asked about the Tom Mikulka request. KR explained but no further word from the group.

Friends of Fort Williams Update

AS shared her FOF Ecology Report. Many volunteers working in the park and AS provided the link to the FOF volunteer registration form. AS provided an update on programming and events taking place highlighting the season walks with the first on August 7 from 4-5:30 pm and the Garden Tour on July 19. AS mentioned a dead tree up by Bob Malley's bench that needs removal. KR will contact Jay Reynolds and/or Jeff Tarling.

Fort Williams Update

KR shared the recent concerns with the granite slide in the Children's Garden. The mulch at bottom of slide has compacted, resulting in a hard landing. As a result, we have experienced a few injuries similar to those we had prior to renovation work. AS and her group have been working on the mulch to keep it as soft as we can. Committee discussed a couple different options and suggested signage (12 years and under only) (Slide at your own risk) and focus on the maintenance of the mulch.

KR then explained the Planning Board process. She shared what she has been working on with Maureen O'Meara. The Town Zoning Ordinance and specifically the Fort Williams Park District. She shared what is needed for Master Plan site plan approval, including the approvals

for the Pond Pavilion and Playground site plans. Discussion by committee members. KR shared dates for Planning Board Workshop (8/5 @ 7:00 pm) and Planning Board Meeting (8/19 @ 7:00). All committee members who will be local on the dates will attend. JK suggested contacting Todd Richardson for digital copy of Master Plan if KR unable to find it. KR shared the electronic version of the planned playground. Committee liked the projected use of the area and the proposed equipment. JK also discussed the project development meetings taking place at Goddard Mansion. KR shared information she received from Maureen O'Meara on the removal of trees etc. AS will check into pre-approved site areas for FOF that may help.

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

Discussion regarding July meeting. KR not available on July 17. Due to workshop on 8/5, we can meet on July 24 if needed prior to workshop. KR will reach out in advance.

Motion to adjourn by CK, second by JK. Motion passed (7 – Yes, 0 – No). The meeting adjourned @ 7:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Kathy Raftice.