

**Town of Cape Elizabeth  
Fort Williams Park Committee**

Zoom Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, September 24, 2020

**Present:** Jim Kerney (JimK), Suzanne McGinn (SM), Ken Pierce (KP), Mark Russell (MR), Lauren Springer (LS), Jim Walsh (JW) and Doreen Theriault (DT)

**Staff:** Kathy Raftice (KR), Community Services and Fort Williams Park Director, Chris Cutter (CC), Fort Williams Park Coordinator, and Jeremy Gabrielson, Town Council Liaison

**Call to Order:** Chair, Jim Kerney called meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Motion to approve the August 20, 2020 draft minutes as submitted by KP and second by MR. Minutes approved. (7 - Yes, 0 - No)

**Public Comment Opportunity for Discussion of Items Not On the Agenda**  
None

**FWPF Update**

JimK explained that Andrea was at the site walk but not attending the meeting tonight. The four item summary shared with the agenda was all to be covered and no decisions needed. The slide up and operational. Invasive work taking place, nice to see their efforts bringing areas under control. Upper Cliffway Path cleared and looks beautiful. Andrea will be speaking with the donor on the tree grove which is a slow process but working towards an approval for our proposal. Scott Smart removing scrub pine from front of headlight and removing white stones. Work looks fantastic. Nice compliment to all the work around the head light this spring. SM asked about the circle. JimK commented that Captain Strout Circle needs work. KR shared it was the Garden Club however she would reach out to the Rotary as well and see if anything can be done. JimK suggests we need to get that fixed. SM wants to see if Andrea can be involved. CC shared the knotweed was treated this week by VCS. He also shared there is a big rusty old anchor he would like to see there. CC and KR will coordinate to have cleaned up before end of season. Old fencing on Cliff Walk needs to be removed. CC will coordinate with Parks department. SM made comment to the Conservation Commission on the good work being done at Fort Williams and with CELT on the invasives and she feels there should be a town approach. If folks agree send an email to the Conservation Commission supporting.

**Fort Williams Park Update - Kathy Raftice**

KR shared that she has spoken with Matt Sturgis and no update on the berm however he is following up with the vendor who did the soil ground test samples. JimK asked if there is someone we can reach out to and this has been going on with no updates. KR will reach out again to Matt. JimK extended a thank you to KR and CC for their work on the quick turnaround on the pickleball courts. New colors look outstanding. KR shared a request from the pickleball group to host a tournament on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. JimK asked about process/fees and suggests

this is something we will want to revisit long term. KP shared his experience at a facility in CT and how they reserve courts but no fee. KP concern with tournament is Cape Elizabeth people having an opportunity to play and no rollover into the lower tennis courts. KR had clarified only 4 upper courts if granted. JW shared how the pool is reserving times through Community Services. JimK feels would be ok to generate a little revenue to take care of mowing and maintenance but usage will need to be monitored. Signage needs to be posted. MR clarified that if we are charging for tennis courts we will charge for the pickleball courts for this type of an event. All members agreed. KR will check on fees and advise Glenn Jordan. KR provided a bench update. Long list of interest with letters sent to first 11. Some requests go back to 2002. KR sent emails to those she only had email addresses for and received rejected response so moved to others. She had not yet heard back from others but will continue through the list. There are recent requests that exceed the 11 benches so should not be an issue on all being utilized. JimK asked about the tennis courts rehab project. KR shared what vendor stated and that this is a bigger project and we should revisit moving the resurfacing project ahead and considering for the next budget. JimK would like to get an estimate on cost and speed the process up. KP asked about a price to paint over the pickleball lines. KR explained part of the discussion and to be considered with resurfacing project. KP concerned about rollover from upper courts. CC will have signs posted as tennis only. CC provided update on the signs. Vendor waiting on bases, supply chain issue. JimK suggested we should wait until spring on signs. CC will contact vendor. KP did mention conversation with Todd Richardson about signs and CC should discuss with him. CC will share all he has with them.

Jay Reynolds, new Public Works Director introduced himself to the team. JimK welcomed and look forward to working with him.

### **Music in the Park Discussion – Jim Kerney**

JimK introduced the music in the park discussion. He shared that maybe we should have something in place and not necessarily wait for the Master Plan. Music and parks often synonymous and people love to come hear music. Does it make sense to allocate our bandstand or an area in the park? At the last meeting we had deferred to another meeting when no specific requests were pending so we could discuss. CC updated committee on Equinox concert. Overall success and well received. The only suggestion is to end an hour before closing. MR shared that he has been a strong advocate for music in the park and feels the park is built for this type of entertainment. Completely in favor of music all over the park. DT likes it too but does want us to coordinate with the nights the library has music. KP echoes MR, feels you cannot get enough of it. SM music/entertainment was part of the amphitheater project we tried to get in the park. There was a desire by the community for not only music but for live performances. JimK asked for a brief explanation on why the amphitheater failed to pass. What were the concerns, complaints or resistance? MR first complaint came from the surrounding neighborhoods regarding noise. Problem/fear of amplified music and complaints were legitimate. MR feels we should encourage the symphony to return to the lighthouse as soon as we can. Plan may have been too grand and concerns raised by many in the community. The proposal went to a public hearing and without the support expected the committee decided not to pursue. SM shared more details about plan that was presented. She explained how the plan included an extension of the bleacher project and with the amphitheater the cost was in excess of \$400k. The location for

music was a positive because it was in the center of the park away from neighbors. Also wanted to use the amphitheater as a revenue generating source. JimK thinking much more baby steps. Do we pick a spot or a few spots, develop a schedule and post the information online. Site the regulations and keep the parameters simple with maybe a focus on residents. Develop some expertise on crowds, noise etc. MR agreed, feels that what we should be doing. LS asked if all acoustics the other night? Was there a better spot than others? A place we could do this more often? CC offered he felt Battery Knoll a better spot. Parking, views, backdrop etc. MR many great spots, depends on size of the group, day of the week and weather. JimK suggests next step, subcommittee to work on music in the park. DT volunteered to work on, SM mentioned the gentleman who works on music in parks in Portland. DT, SM and KR will work on subcommittee and report to committee at next meeting.

### **Master Plan Discussion on user groups/general discussion**

JimK introduced the topic and KR explained blurb provided by R & A will be posted in different locations and that R & A looking for a list of stakeholders to reach out to and ensure we obtain their input going forward. JimK & MR put together a list of stakeholders and will find and submit. Then we will need to identify the contacts within those groups. JimK asked about contract, KR clarified. General discussion on the site walk/meeting that took place earlier. Committee would like to use same terminology and updated photos of the park. This will be communicated to R & A. MR sought feedback and comments from others who attended the meeting. JimK shared liked the process, felt team had spent a lot of time in the park and brought fresh eyes. R & A very open to feedback. MR wants to make sure all parts of park being seen. LS felt they had a better sense of the park than she had thought. They have spent a lot of time and had clear ideas however hesitant to share. She feels we need to get past that and time will be better well spent. MR supports the new ideas and wants to know how they feel but wants them to know how he feels as well. Concerns with virtual meetings. SM felt this was information gathering, not to share recommendations at this time. MR asked what kind of information was gathered. LS felt they were trying to gather information on what we saw as underutilized and over utilized areas. They have observed but wanted to see where the committee felt the park could be used in different ways. The activity assisted with a quick view. KP shared the zone breakouts and how they viewed the zones and sought input on what happens in these areas. KP concerned that due to COVID they are not getting a true picture of how busy the park can be. DT agreed and raised concerns about parking lot and buses. MR emphasized the importance of everyone's input. DT felt R & A trying to hear group before making too many recommendations. SM appreciated the fresh eyes. JimK agreed that virtual meetings difficult and we want to have as many face to face meetings as we can. KP still wants a walk through, SM supports as well. JG advised mapping available to the vendor may want to connect with Maureen O'Meara.

**New business.** KR brought forth two new requests. LL Bean has requested to a fall pop-up visit. MR motion to approve, JimK second. All in favor. (7-Yes, 0-No)

Jim Rowe special request for brief use of Capt. Strout Circle on 10/17/20 for ceremony for Ernest Brien (100 yrs old). All in favor. (7 – Yes, 0 – No).

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

**Town Council Meeting Coverage Assignment & Liaison Update**

There is a special meeting set and JG will advise council that work has begun and more information will be following.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM**

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Raftice

DRAFT