

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Community Services Committee
Meeting Minutes
2/10/21

Attending: Andrea Ernst (AE), Amy Lombardo (AL), Sarah MacColl (SM), Jon Mortimer (JM), Jill Palmore (JP), Terri Patterson (TP) and Tara Simopoulos (TS)

Meeting opened at 5:35 pm - Kathy Raftice

Draft Minutes from January 20, 2021 Minutes accepted as written (6 – Yes, 0 – No, TP arrived after vote)

Public Comment – None, Correspondence – None

CECS Updates

Youth

KR shared that budget submitted. Difficult to predict what next year will bring however we did begin our programming last summer so some numbers and parameters to utilize. CECS budget is completely revenue driven. If revenue not there, expenses do not happen. Brochure in the works as we have done in the past. Programmers are working on finalizing. Brochure will be smaller than in the past. Some write ups will be shorter however all information will be found on the website with highlights in the brochure. Linda Strunk did research on alternative printers however we are receiving the best price possible. TS shared it is the same printer the Cape Courier uses. TP shared she feels it has been fine and people will be happy to see it back. SM suggests taking a survey to see how valuable a printed brochure is. Is there some way to ask at the time of registration and name goes into a drawing. A way to support and receive feedback. Did we lose people by just being electronic so we are going to print and see if impacts. We are also doing the summer at a glance on summer camps so parents can post. We will also continue to utilize the Courier. Update on school closing this week. Communication between superintendent and town manager and due to no kids being exposed we are open with hybrid and preschool along with our vacation camp week next year. Short discussion on hybrid learning/back to school and current communications around all back in school full time. Goal is to return to full time for all. CECS still maintaining all safety protocol. Basketball has begun with the 7th & 8th grade, ice fishing on Great Pond with Scott Shea. If opportunity presents itself, extend a big thank you to Scott. JP shared that one of the families in her development raved about the program. KR shared that Susan Frost is doing a fabulous job and finding creative ways to keep kids active. Looking at pond at Fort Williams for additional programming. TP shared she went by Deering Oaks and group of kids playing broom ball...great to see. We have received lots of feedback from parents that more outside time is the best. Younger basketball program will begin in mid-March. TP shared that parent had asked about lacrosse. KR confirmed it will begin but will all be outdoor. TP mentioned a possible lacrosse camp over April vacation. Good relationships built when older kids work with the younger. She is happy to work with Ben Raymond and Susan to see if that can happen. KR shared Feb vacation camp and April vacation camp. AE asked about baseball camp in the spring. AL did share that Little League will be doing some things later in spring. AL asked about clinics in the high school, but nothing scheduled. Fields come into play. CECS will be offering the baseball camp following the end of the school year.

Adults & Seniors

Jane Anderson is working with Cape Kindness (AL & TP) and Senior to Senior program (Tom Kohan) to combine efforts. Looking for different activities and ideas. SM shared a suggestion for a camp over April vacation combining Senior to Senior. Possibly involve Jim Rowe on a history of the fort type camp. KR will share with Jane Anderson.

Pool & Fitness

KR shared Fitness Center concern brought forth that masks are not being worn. We are only allowing 3 per hour however we do need to reinforce the need for masks. TP feels we should not be repeating request, one chance. SM brought to our attention that a lifeguard was not wearing a mask. KR shared she has received some complaints and has reiterated requirement to wear a mask. Some coaches/instructors were not wearing masks on deck and that too has been corrected. SM asked if PH of the pool toxic to Covid? KR shared that guidelines state no transmission within the pool. Air quality a concern. Reason for the doors being open as are being done in schools etc. Proper ventilation concerns. AL shared buses and schools continue to have windows open. TP & TS shared it is freezing in the high school. Hopeful that new ventilation systems will help.

Fort Williams Update

Update on Master Plan, last meeting was an analysis of findings. Next step is the development of the goals followed by the recommendations then a public forum. Lots of activity still to come and lots of information. TP asked if the data will be available to the public. KR will have the information posted on the town website. Sounds by the Sea work has begun. Linda Strunk handing the music and Jane Anderson will handle sponsors. TP asks is there is a way to limit those attending to Cape residents. Feels it will be popular and hoping local residents have opportunity to enjoy. KR shared crowd control could be difficult given the different entrances and means of commuting to the park. TP suggests maybe the sponsors could be responsible for crowd control, she loves idea of music but hopeful local residents have opportunity to enjoy. KR acknowledges the challenge and will reach out to other communities to see how they will be handling and will bring the issue to the attention of those scheduling and the FWPC. JP asks how we are advertising, feels that will impact. KR shared advertising will be mostly local and through Community Services and use of a weekday night may limit exposure. SM commented on location of the performances and fact that could get crowded with restrictions. TP asked if graduation happening at the fort. KR has not received the formal request at this date however regular group use requests have been approved by Town Council given the restrictions on group size is lifted.

General Issues

Looking into CETV to share information. Always welcome to new ideas. AL loved seeing the little kids out sledding and brought back some feelings of normalcy. SM asked if anything Community Services staff needs to show our appreciation. TP also extended a thank you to Jane Anderson on handling the call to bring together the three entities for our seniors.

Meeting adjourned 6:30 pm

Next meeting: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 @ 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Raftice