

Town of Cape Elizabeth
Community Services Committee
Meeting Minutes
11/09/22

Attending: Andrea Ernst (AE), Amy Lombardo (AL), Sarah MacColl (SM), and Terri Patterson (TP)

Absent: Jon Mortimer, Jill Palmore and Tara Simopoulos

Meeting opened at 5:31 pm - Kathy Raftice

Motion to approve draft minutes from October 12, 2022 by TP, second by AE, motion passed (4 – Yes, 0 – No)

Public Comment

John Bates, 168 Mitchell Road. Mr. Bates introduced himself and shared he was attending the meeting to see what it is we do as he is not familiar with Community Services other than swim lessons for his granddaughter. He will speak to that later but just would like to listen. Committee welcomed him and advised if there was something he wanted to share to let them know.

Correspondence – None

CECS Updates

KR shared that the Halloween Trunk or Treat was another great success. Roughly 200 attended. Police then offered the movie following. Great feedback! The brochure cover has been sent to the printer and the inside will be sent on Friday, November 18th. Programmers are finalizing. Pleasant Mountain/Shawnee program will be offered! A quick reminder that registration opens for residents on December 18th @ 8:00 pm.

KR shared that she and Susan Frost had a recent conference call with Julie Furt regarding the Cape Ice Arena. We will be offering skills and drills on Saturday mornings as we have with other sports. TP asked if the high school players will be involved and yes, that is how it will be handled. Committee happy to hear that. There will also be a learn-to-skate program, some afternoon skate times for Middle School kids; Community Services will be selling a pass for kids to participate. We will be utilizing the arena for our school vacation camps. We discussed the need for skates as in the past when going to Portland Ice or Thompson's Point many littles do not have skates. Potential for a skate drive, advertising for specific sizes. SM asked about other open skate times for adults. She feels CECS committee member/s should be involved as early as possible to ensure not just for ice hockey. TP agreed and shared we should continue to be involved as development continues. Discussion around the parking and concerns. I will continue to update the committee.

Youth

KR shared that Caroline Cutter has returned to help with afterschool 3 days a week and on Sundays beginning in January. We did receive an application for a Part Time Youth Programming Assistant and we have set up an interview for Monday, November 21. Vacation numbers are a little low but tend to run low until after Thanksgiving. Basketball has begun and

we are again looking to offer a program to 7/8 graders who do not make the school team. Some of the new offerings this winter are knitting, jewelry making (2 classes) and the skating programs, along with our tried and true favorites. KR brought up to date on discussion with the Drivers Ed instructor and the program will remain as it has with the instruction in person! Committee happy to hear. KR shared how popular the chess program has been and now the instructor would like to hold a tournament. This will be on January 14th and more information will be coming out. Lots of excitement about this as only one other in Southern Maine. SM asked if monitors are needed, willing to help. KR will look into this and advise.

Adults & Seniors

Linda Strunk, Adult Coordinator is working on some new offerings as well – Lunchtime Fitness Fusion with Liz Beausang. She subbed for us this summer and coming back with her own class which is wonderful. Intro to Flow Yoga with Annie Ware, another relatively new instructor and a few new enrichment classes – Knife & Tool Sharpening, A Winter Acrylic Workshop and a 3 part series on Landscaping. And as with Youth we return our tried and true classes such as Core & More with our very own Sarah MacColl. SM asked about Conversational Spanish class; a neighbor had asked. Discussion by committee on mindfulness classes and AE shared she had done a section at her school and ended each with yoga; kids loved it! TP shared that the schools are offering more of this. KR will share with Linda. All the spin bikes we had offered have sold!! KR shared that the last couple trips with seniors have been cancelled due to low enrollment. SM suggested a buddy system to get some new participants. Scarborough Community Services is offering the Thanksgiving luncheon again. This year they are back to in-person and hopefully those alone will still attend. Jack Bates shared information about a Thanksgiving luncheon he has attended in the past. This is for Veterans and is at the Italian Heritage Center. TP shared how as veterans, all have something in common. We do have our annual holiday luncheon at Purpoodock and have reduced the cost and sent out individual invitations to try to boost the numbers. Some popular bigger trips are still going strong and Jane working on offerings for the winter – sleigh ride, movies, plays, and a combined trip with other recreation departments to the JFK Library and Edward Kennedy Institute. A few suggestions for future classes; Estate Planning and Reverse Mortgages.

Pool & Fitness

Starting blocks are in and being installed. They look wonderful and are more competitive for our swimmers. KR shared that the hot tub was closed for about 5 days due to a leak that was repaired. This is a precious commodity and loved by many! We are back to being open at 5:30 am on Tues and Thurs mornings. Our very own Kerry Kertes opens one morning and one of our adult lifeguards will open the other! We are in the process of reviewing our private swim lesson offerings. So many are requesting and not enough instructors to cover the need. The committee discussed group and private swim lessons. Jack Bates, community guest, shared some of his feelings and frustrations. Feels he will probably go the private lesson route in the future if we get it back up and running. A special needs group from Portland schools is renting the pool 2 afternoons a week. One of our night lifeguards, Tom DeYoung works with the school and brought kids over the summer. Worked out so well they now are coming a couple days a week. Fitness Center use has been increasing which is great. A large contingent of high school students and most days we have staff on site to ensure proper use. KR shared that high school swim season will begin on November 14th. CE will practice from 2:30 – 5:30 pm and Scarborough 8:00 – 9:30 pm.

Cape Care

KR shared we received the grant again which will allow bonuses and increased wages. All going smoothly, receiving swim lessons right now which is a great bonus for our students. The

team just completed parent/teacher conferences. We follow the MELDS progress report which is helpful and well received by parents.

Fort Williams/PHL Update

Season is wrapping up, overall a great success with pay and display, buses, gift shop and museum! Asked if bus pricing going up next year. KR shared yes in 2023 it is budgeted to be \$210.00. TP shared that she and her neighbors are happy bus season is over. KR shared that site and ceremony reservations for next season open on December 1 for residents and January 1 for non-residents. KR meeting with PHL staff on November 17 to recap season. Committee discussed volunteers and how to obtain. TP shared just so much more difficult now. Committee will share any ideas they come up with. Next meeting of FWPC scheduled for November 17th. Vendor working on Pond study will present to the committee. Budget season around the corner.

Meeting adjourned 6:52 pm

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Raftice