



To Whom It May Concern:

In light of the recent actions of certain members of the Friends of Fort Edgecomb board and the Bicentennial Committee I am writing this letter to outline the facts the Selectboard for the Town of Edgecomb has been presented.

The first action taken recently was Bruce Cameron coming to the board of selectmen with a letter written by Becky Benton to dissolve the town's bicentennial committee and merge it with the Friends of Fort Edgecomb.

This letter was represented as Ms. Benton's original work. As noted by letters from Ms. Benton and her husband Chuck Benton, a letter was started by Ms. Benton and then was passed to other members of the Friends of Fort Edgecomb and edits were made. The edited letter was presented by Bruce Cameron as Ms. Benton's original work and it is not. Therefore, at best, this is a misrepresentation of Ms. Benton by Mr. Cameron.

Second, the fact that the Bicentennial Committee is or is not a Town of Edgecomb Committee: This committee was started (to the best of my knowledge) by Jo Cameron, then on the Selectboard. It was believed for many years to be a Town (with a capital "T") committee.

In the past, several committees have been formed and those members not sworn in, but they still acted for the Town. I reference the Task Force that eventually worked on the town's comprehensive plan. This task force also worked on additions to the Land Use Ordinance that are incorporated within as regards to zoning and many other details.

It was not until last year that this committee was sworn in by the Selectboard.

Three members of the Bicentennial Committee have resigned because of the Cameron's actions and because it was their understanding the bicentennial committee was a Town committee. Resignation letters were also sent to the Selectboard.

The town voted money for the bicentennial committee thinking the committee was acting as a Town committee. It was not learned until recently, when pointed out by Town Clerk Claudia Coffin, that the members had not been sworn in, therefore making the committee a non-Town committee.

Third, under the assumption that the committee was a Town committee it was imperative that the money raised should be in a Town account. Public money in a private account cannot be allowed and that issued needed to be resolved as soon as possible. It was that assumption under which the Selectboard, and most members of the bicentennial committee, were operating.



In the future, the bicentennial sub-committee for the Friends of Fort Edgecomb should in no way be associated with the Town. People have been misled on this point and it should be made clear in the future.

Also, the Friends of Fort Edgecomb should present the documents showing its 501( c)3 status of which the State and the IRS have no record or knowledge.

In conclusion, it is obvious the Camerons have acted, at best, inappropriately. It is obvious they believed the bicentennial committee was a Town committee or they would not have moved forward trying to get the town to give The Friends of Fort Edgecomb the money raised to date by the bicentennial committee. Their arguments now contradict what they started.

They have continued to aggravate the situation and take up valuable time. They owe the town an apology and they should contact the people who have donated money under the assumption they were giving to a Town-sanctioned committee. The Camerons should determine if those people want their money back. They should also explain what is going to happen to any money that is not used for the bicentennial celebration.

It is saddening that people will search for ways to make others look bad. The Selectboard has been acting in the Town's best interest and it appears that interest is not shared by certain individuals. It is my hope that this letter will put the issue behind the Town and the persons involved will make proper restitution to those they have wronged.

Stuart Smith  
Selectman

John Johnson  
Selectman

Jack Sarmanian  
Selectman