

November 24, 2008

From: Becky Benton  
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To: Town of Edgecomb Selectmen

Dear Selectman,

I am writing you on behalf of the Friends of Fort Edgecomb (FOFE), as well as the Town of Edgecomb's Fort Edgecomb Bicentennial Committee (FEBC).

As a town appointed committee, the Fort Edgecomb Bicentennial Committee has been raising money for the upcoming 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary community celebration of the Fort Edgecomb site, scheduled for June 13-14, 2009.

The committee of four, Jo Cameron, Ann Poole, Rebecca Graham, and myself (Becky Benton), have been meeting on a regular basis. We are in the throes of planning activities and raising funds, that will ensure a fun and educational celebration of the history of the Fort Edgecomb historic site. We are joined by the Edgecomb Historical Society, with Sue Carlson as President.

In the month of October, the FEBC decided that for fundraising purposes, to move our committee under the wing of the Friends of Fort Edgecomb. This change will allow monetary donations and contributions of services to be tax exempt, under FOFE's existing 501(C)-3 tax status. This action serves two-fold; It allows the Friends of Fort Edgecomb to resurrect itself in its original goal of helping the State of Maine in the preservation and restoration of the site; as well as educate the general public to the importance of the site. It will also serve as a platform to initiate fundraising for future community remembrances, and celebrations of events such as the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, to take place in 2012.

We started out as a Town of Edgecomb committee, but we are now acting as a committee under the Friends of Fort Edgecomb, and are governing ourselves under its by-laws. Money raised by the initial town committee has been deposited in the FOFE bank account and remains there. We need advice from you, our selectmen, to proceed with our plans.

- Does the original town committee need to report to the Town of Edgecomb, to resign its committee members and terminate the committee?
- How will this change affect the town voted state money, given to the bicentennial committee? Will this compromise the tax status of that money, and future donations from the town? Does this issue need to be voted on at next year's town meeting?
- What about the funds raised from outside sources by the town committee *before* moving to FOFE? (ie: should it be donated to FOFE by the town committee?)

Even if we were originally an ad-hoc committee, we need to make sure that we are not doing anything illegal with the money raised. *And* that there is no confusion as to which organization should be receiving the funds.

We require a speedy inquiry into this matter, for we have plans for serious fundraising in January. Thank you.

With Respect,  
Becky Benton