

Bartlet Mall Commission Meeting

Date: June 15, 2017

Time: 6:00-7:00pm

Location: Commune Cafe, Pleasant St.

Attending Commission Members: Andrea Eigerman, Joanna Fernandes, Ellen Hanick, Karen Johnson, Constance Maass

Absent Commission Member(s): none

Community Members Present: Bill Ladas and Charlie Griffin

Documents utilized: "Implementing and Following the Master Plan-Suggestions/Next Steps-6.15.2017" – Bill Lada and Charlie Griffin; "Management Plan Bartlet Mall 2005-2010"; "A Master Plan for the Restoration and Improvement of the Bartlet Mall" – Walker-Kluesing Design Group

Meeting Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Review and approval of April and May meeting minutes
3. Future Meeting Dates: July 20th, choose an August date
4. Bartlet Mall Master Plan (September 1998) discussion with volunteers Bill Ladas and Charlie Griffin regarding: (a) the vision for the Mall and the challenges and support needed to help the BMC; and (b) short term actions that could take place to improve the appearance and integrity of the Mall.
5. Discussion on memorials for donated items at the Mall
6. Maintenance issues and updates:
 - Update on OPWS clean up of Frog Pond (Lise)
 - Update on planting of FoNT donated copper beech tree (Andrea)
 - Governor's Academy volunteers May 25/26 (Andrea)
 - Update on volunteers/inmates for benches (Lise)
 - Phragmites?
 - Watershed Maintenance Plan?
 - Anything else?
7. Events for 2017:
 - Update on Newburyport Parks Conservancy July 1st Americana Rhythm and Roots concert
 - Update to group on status of **Bartlet Mall Day**
 - Anything else? Wet paint auction? Big Dog?
8. Adjourn

Notes

1. Call to order

2. Review and approval of April and May meeting minutes

Ellen made a motion to approve meeting minutes from April 2017 and May 2017. Joanna seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved unanimously. Note – Karen Johnson was tardy and not present during vote, but was present during subsequent votes.

3. Future Meeting Dates: July 20th, choose an August date

Commission members confirmed July 20 and chose August 10.

4. Discussion with volunteers Bill Ladas and Charlie Griffin regarding: (a) the vision for the Mall and the challenges and support needed to help the BMC; and (b) short term actions that could take place to improve the appearance and integrity of the Mall

Bill and Charlie prepared a presentation entitled "Implementing and Following the Master Plan; Suggestions/Next Steps; 6/15/2017," which was viewed in document form because the meeting's venue did not allow for projection.

Bill and Charlie would like to work with the Commission in order to restore the park back to the original historic vision as illustrated in photos from 1890. Over the years, the strict formality of the landscaping, which was the historic vision, has been lost. Key points: measured tree plantings that allow for an unobstructed view of the park from all points in park, removal of "junk trees" (those there courtesy of the birds), increased maintenance, a return to focus on the sloped edges surrounding the Pond (when the park was originally landscaped great care was implemented in creating sculpted earth forms, which are unique and architecturally significant), extending the promenade, and renovation of stairs and walkways. The Cecil Group made some of these suggestions in 2005, but only part of the work was done because of budget constraints. The Bartlet Mall and the Courthouse are on the National Register of Historic places [independently as of 1976 and as part of the Newburyport Historic District as of 1984]. Because of this, there may be grants available.

Ellen made a motion to move forward with working towards returning the Mall to the historic landscaping vision of 1890. (Andrea noted that the vision must also be balanced with modern day needs and issues, such as improved water quality, and all decisions must be made in conjunction with the Parks Commission and Department). All were in favor. The Bartlet Mall Commission has invited Bill and Charlie to continue to work in conjunction with the Commission in implementing this goal.

5. Maintenance issues and updates

Due to time constraints, maintenance issues and updates were not discussed.

6. Updates on 2017 Events

Karen and Andrea highlighted that the Newburyport Parks Conservancy July 1st Americana Rhythm and Roots concert is still in need of day of volunteers. It is not necessary to commit to a full 3-hour shift.

Andrea emphasized the need for Commission members' greater involvement in October's Bartlet Mall Day and gave a brief overview of the plans so far.

7. Adjourn