

## **Bartlet Mall Commission**

### **Meeting Agenda**

**April 13, 2017**

**Atomic Café, Street**

**6:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

1. Call to order
2. Review and approval of March meeting minutes
3. Choose June and July meeting dates. We already have May 11<sup>th</sup> set at the library.
4. Maintenance issues and updates:
  - Update on OPWS clean up of Frog Pond
  - Update on excavation of willow roots for planting of FoNT donated copper beech tree
  - Update from Andrea on wildflower seeds for scattering along the bank for spring
  - Phragmites?
  - Watershed Maintenance Plan?
  - Lessons Learned from recent clean-up day?
  - Use of Essex County Sheriff prisoners for bench re-varnishing?
  - Anything else?
5. Events for 2017:
  - Update on Newburyport Parks Conservancy July 1<sup>st</sup> Rhythm and Roots concert
  - Update to group on status of Old Newburyport Day at Bartlet Mall
  - Does anyone want to volunteer to plan either a “Done in a Day” work day, work day with sheriff prisoners, or finding sponsorship for George Washington statue plantings (seasonal plantings and paid watering?)
6. Andrea still to do: work with Lise on standardized permitting fees across the parks (we decided for use of the Mall, we should request a donation of \$100 for non-profit and \$250 for for-profit organizations, as a good place to start for now). This should also include the standardization of sponsorships throughout Newburyport parks (what locations are appropriate to sponsor? What signage is allowed or other benefit? Etc)
7. Adjourn

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The Commission voted to approve the March meeting minutes.

Our next meeting dates were set for **Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm, and Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.** We may decide to cancel one of these meetings during the busy summer, if there are not pressing items on the agenda. Both meetings will likely be at a

café, but our May meeting is set for the Director's Room at the Newburyport Public Library. The Commission discussed appropriate locations for meetings, after one member of the public told the chair he thought meeting at a café may not be allowed under the state Open Meeting Law and it is inappropriate to meet at a café where alcohol is served. The Chair has been advised by City staff that a public café is fine for our meetings.

**Maintenance Updates:** We have no updates from Lise on the OPWS going in at the Mall. Andrea has had contact with the contractor that will remove roots of willow to plant the copper beech tree and just checked in with him again. This should happen very soon, as the new tree should be planted ASAP. Andrea also spoke with Mike Hennessey, regarding the scattering of wildflower seeds along the banks. He said this does not work well. He has tried it on a number of projects with very limited success. Therefore, the Commission decided not to use its limited funds on the purchase on wildflower seeds. On the matter of phragmites, and the watershed maintenance plan matters (specifically use of organic weed spray and treatment of water flowing off courthouse roof to pond), the Commission determined it would be appropriate to remind Mike Hennessey of these matters when possible. BMC spoke with Parks Commission on these matters in the fall. However, with the Ocean Pure Water System (OPWS) being installed shortly, Commission members would like to control other aspects of water input into the Frog Pond as well. The BMC discussed any lessons learned from our spring clean-up day. We declared it a success and noted the importance of keeping a good e-mail list of interested parties. Further work should be done to get neighbors and organizations that use the park included on this interested parties list. We also discussed use of the Essex County Sheriff Department Prisoners for varnishing of the park benches. Apparently, this is how the work got done in the past. The BMC would need to provide supplies and lunch, the labor would be provided for free. Andrea agreed to look into use of Essex County Sheriff prisoners further.

Updates on Events: Newburyport Parks Conservancy is good shape for the July 1<sup>st</sup> Rhythm and Roots concert. It is still looking for sponsors and volunteers. Regarding the Old Newburyport Day, Don DeGloria, a friend of Karen's, arrived at the end of the meeting to discuss how he might help. He is a member of a historical firemen's group in Boston. He is trying to make contact with local groups to do the muster. He also has many historical photos and postcards he is willing to share or have copied. I told him for the photos, Joanna and I would make a list of the "landmarks" for which we hope to have information boards and get back to him. He had some other suggestions for local historical contacts, that Andrea will follow up on.

Finally, Andrea reminded the group that it decided at its last meeting that it would like to help the City and Parks Commission standardize its permit fees (and hopefully raise

them) and determine policies for sponsoring portions of the parks (this came about in discussion of wanting a group to sponsor maintenance and plantings around the George Washington statue). Andrea reported that she had done nothing to forward this matter, but will think about an approach. It is likely at least one meeting will be required with Lise Reid and Kim Turner, Parks Commission Chair. Both are very busy at this time, so we may decide to start this process in the late fall. Andrea will look into it.