**Bartlet Mall Commission (BMC) Meeting**

Date: March 9, 2017

Time: 6:00-7:00pm

Location: Commune Café, Pleasant St.

Attending Commission Members: Andrea Eigerman (Chair), Joanna Fernandes, Karen Johnson, Constance Maass

Absent Commission Member(s): Ellen Hanick, Lise Reid (Parks Director)

Documents utilized: none

**Agenda**

1. Call to order
2. Review and approval of October, November (shared meeting with NPC), and January meeting notes
3. Choose next meeting dates
4. Review of permit request from Exchange Club
5. Maintenance issues and updates:

* Update on OPWS clean up of Frog Pond
* Excavation of willow roots for planting of FoNT donated copper beech tree
* Andrea to price and possibly purchase wildflower seeds for scattering along the bank for spring
* Anything else?

1. Events for 2017:

* Update to group on status of Old Newburyport Day at Bartlet Mall
* Who will volunteer to plan either a “Done in a Day” work day or finding sponsorship for George Washington statue plantings (seasonal plantings and paid watering?)

1. Big Dog. Let’s hurry up and do something with it! Ideas? How many times have we discussed this?!
2. Adjourn

Meeting Notes

1. Andrea Eigerman made a motion for the October, November, and January meeting notes to be approved. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor and the notes were approved. (There were no December notes as it was a social meeting only and no February notes as the meeting was cancelled due to a snowstorm).
2. Next meeting dates: The commission selected Thursday, April 13, at 6pm and Thursday May 11, at 6pm as the next meeting dates. The anticipated location for both meetings is Atomic Café on State St.
3. Karen Johnson provided an update on the Newburyport Parks Conservancy’s fundraising and planning efforts for Americana Rhythm and Roots Festival to be held on July 2.
4. Exchange Club Permit request: The Exchange Club requested a permit for the Field of Honor to be held in September of 2017. The commission unanimously approved the permit with a suggested donation of $100.

The permit request prompted discussion of the need to have permitting fees be mandatory across city parks, as there is a need to generate greater funds to care for the parks. With the support of the commission, Andrea Eigerman would like to take on this initiative. Until such time the initiative is approved, the commission determined that a suggested donation of $100 for a non-profit and $225 for a for-profit company is appropriate for those seeking permits to utilize the Mall.

1. Updates
2. Frog Pond Clean Up

Andrea Eigerman joined Mike Hennessy (head of maintenance for Newburyport Parks), Lise Reid (Parks Director), maintenance workers from the Superior Courthouse, Casey Glynn (founder of Phoenix Revolution), as well as a salesperson and an engineer from Phoenix Revolution, in the basement of the Superior Court to determine the best placement for OPWS equipment. The team determined that the units will fit well and the equipment can simply be plugged in. Andrea wrote a request to the main office of state courthouses for formal approval for Phoenix Revolution/the City of Newburyport to use the Courthouse basement. (Of note, she simultaneously requested use of the Superior Court for Old Newburyport Day).

Cleaning of the Pond will begin once the units are built and installed. Phoenix Revolution is in possession of the City’s money, but is waiting the guaranteed grant money form the state.

1. Excavation of Willow Roots

Mike Hennessy has arranged for the willow tree roots on the edge of the Pond to be removed in order for the tree FoNT donated to be planted this spring.

1. Wildflowers

Andrea is researching pricing on native wildflower seeds. The commission will then determine a day for spring planting.

1. Updates on Events for 2017

Andrea Eigerman, Lise Reid, and Joanna Fernandes met in regards to 2017 events.

1. Because of unpredictable weather and competing local events, as well as the planning necessary for Old Newburyport Day, they determined to forego a formal event at the Mall in the spring. When the daffodils are blooming, they will promote recreational use of Mall and encourage people to bring picnic blankets down for dinner/take some photos with the flowers via social media and personal outreach.
2. Old Newburyport Day is moving forward and the dates are now set: October 7 10am-2pm with a rain date of October 8, 10am-2pm. Currently confirmed: Theater in the Open, O’Carolan (live music), Newburyport Brewery, Greater Newburyport Families Club (hot cider and crafts). Other possible participants: Old Time New England (toys and games), Neptune Society (fireman’s muster), Newburyport Fire Department (Karen Johnson will contact them in regards to them displaying the old fire truck). Additional plans: informational boards (with historic photos), tug of war contests, costume contests, tours of courthouse, food vendors (Karen Johnson will contact Chococoa and Simply Sweet).
3. Done in a Day: Commission must select day still, but on the to-do-list will be staining benches, painting lamp posts, and plantings. Commission would like to secure a sponsor for the George Washington Statue. Commission would also like work towards sponsorship of recognizable locations city-wide. Andrea Eigerman will also bring this to the Parks Department’s attention.

7. Adjourn.