**Bartlet Mall Commission (BMC) Meeting**

Date: January 5, 2017

Time: 6:00-7:00pm

Location: City Hall

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

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

Documents utilized: Newburyport Parks Inspection Reports Fall 2016, spreadsheet: YTD Bartlet Mall Income and Expense

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Review and Approval of November meeting notes (shared meeting with NPC)
3. Updates from Lise: Commissioner Term Expirations, Frog Pond Clean-up, Grant, and City Contract, and BMC Finances
4. Maintenance Issues and Updates:
* Debriefing of NPC’s November meeting
* Andrea to get three estimates for stump and root excavation, so that FoNT can plant new, donated Copper Beech Tree by April 15th. Do we have funds to pay for this? If not, can we fundraise?
* Fountain Repair? Discussion of daffodil bulb planting? Fall clean-up?

Purchase wildflower seeds to scatter? Anything else?

1. Events for 2017: Possibilities include Spring Daffodil Celebration with “Wishing Tree”, “Done in a Day” work day, Old Newburyport Day at Bartlet Mall in the fall, other events?
2. Big Dog
3. Adjourn

Meeting Notes

1. Approval of meeting notes for October and November were tabled until the entire committee is present. (There were no December notes as it was a social meeting only).
2. Updates from Lise:
3. Katherine Scanlan from Ovarian Cancer Awareness, submitted a permit request for the Lantern festival on Sunday, September 3. Joanna motioned for approval of the request. Karen seconded. Vote in favor was unanimous.
4. Term expirations – Lois (at City Hall) is just behind in sending out the renewal notices, but for Commissioners with expired appointments, appointments are being renewed.
5. OPWS contract – The City signed the contract with Phoenix Revolution (PR) in December to begin Frog Pond water clean up. The City has already paid PR $20,000 in engineering costs. The signed contract was required in order for the CDC grant to be issued. The grant will cover construction costs. Lise noted that the decision makers were very happy with the contract and that she had brought the concerns of the BMC to the City Attorneys and Parks Commission, as well as Phoenix Revolution.
6. Fountain – It is unclear whether the fountain is sinking. It cannot be fixed until the water level has reached a certain point on the fountain base, but it did not even reach that point during the drought last summer.
7. FY 2017 – The Mayor took away the line item in the budget for the Bartlet Mall. That means there is no money allocated for this year. There is $7,981.25 left in the account, however, $7,000.00 is earmarked for the fountain and some of the remaining (981.25 may go towards the OPWS contract.
8. Maintenance – There is a Parks maintenance budget now, so the Parks Department has been able to do a lot at the Mall.
9. Ideas for volunteers at Mall and beyond – 1. adopt GW statue, 2. trash pick up at Cashman, 3.putting mulch around trees.
10. Excavation of willow tree stump – A FoNT member has donated a copper beech tree to take the place of where the old willow once stood on the edge of the Pond. Lise is double checking with Mike Hennessy to see if this is something the City can handle. If not, it may be something that the Conservancy can pay for. Andrea has a quote for stump and root removal.
11. Events for 2017: Possibilities include Spring Daffodil Celebration with “Wishing Tree,” “Done in a Day” work day, Old Newburyport Day at Bartlet Mall in the fall, other events?
12. Wishing Tree – April 29 w/rain date of April 30. Possible inclusions: May pole, picnic’ing, Lowell’s Boat Shop
13. Ould Newburyport Day – October 7 w/rain date October 8 or October 14 w/rain date October 15. Possible inclusions - Theater in the Open, Historic New England, Cushing House, historic reenactors.

We also discussed the possibility of combining general parks workdays with specific projects at the Mall. Ultimately, we decided it would be best to focus on just the Mall as the sole location for volunteer days

Planning meeting for events: Thursday, January 12, 10 am, Chococoa. Andrea and Joanna will meet. Lise will join if she is available.

4. Next BMC meeting dates: February 6, 6pm and March 9, 6pm.