

Bartlet Mall Commission Meeting
July 11, 2012

Date: July 11, 2012

Time: 6:30-8:15

Location: City Hall 2nd Floor Auditorium

Attending: Sadie Cathcart, Steven Fram, Ellen Hanick, Lisë Reid, Andrew Simpson,
Walt Thompson, Georgie Vining

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes of last meeting
3. Old Business
4. Results since last meeting
 - Fountain update
 - Frog Pond Update
 - Weed control on walkways
5. New Business
6. Bench Refinishing
7. Open discussion

Notes

Approval of minutes of last meeting:

- Approval pending, minor adjustments to be made to last months minutes.

Results from last Meeting:

Frog Pond Update

- Steven Fram, former Director of Public Health to the City of Newburyport, was tasked with a Mall restoration project without a budget by while Lisa Mead was Mayor
 - Recognizes that there needs to be oxygen in the water for animals and plant life to survive.
 - It would be advantageous to reduce chemicals and to add oxygen for pond life to thrive
- The pond has four varieties of plant life, if growth is controlled, pond would become vibrant in not too much time.
- Even just one fountain brought higher life forms back
- Georgie Vining is here, and has recently observed turtles and fish at the pond. Some phragmites and cattails have been mechanically removed.
 - Suggests it would be valuable to talk to Julia, the conservation agent
 - Notes that water levels can be dramatic, and have killed plants in the past

Fountain Update

- The fountain has been difficult to maintain, and is a great visual accent, through it does not do much for aeration.
 - Recipe for nitrate and algae
- It would be useful to contact Kim Noble, president of Water Structures
- Walt needs a floating platform so that a ladder can be installed, so that a pipe can be installed that needs replacing

- Fountain would work on high voltage, not on low voltage
- Agitator has been installed that churns the water to improve circulation
 - Only agitating 26 foot diameter
 - Two agitators would be beneficial on both ends of the pond, floating fountains would have aesthetic strength
- What would the ramifications be?
 - would make sense to pursue guidance from an electrician to get a better sense of available power sources
- Start with Dave Zinc, or Lisë knows of an electrician who could potentially help
- In terms of contractors, John Hartnett did most of the work at the mall, Lisë would contact him
- Started late in the season with aquatic management
- In terms of health of Frog Pond, could be helpful, where the Mall is terraced, to have a flowerbed (3x3) approximately halfway down the hill
 - Would require regular maintenance to make it look nice
 - Less of a question of planting it, more of a question of maintaining it

Weed control on walkways

- Walt and Andy have achieved success, thus far. Weeds and stones slightly charred, though rain will take care of any impact a burning weeds on the aesthetics of the Mall
 - May be useful to proceed by burning weeds when weeds are wet and/or dewy? Either way, weed burning effective this far

New Business:

- Base of George Washington monument has been poorly received
 - Richard Banks replaced stone, members of the parks commission responded poorly to it, though the changes had originally been approved
 - Changes are not necessarily historically accurate
 - The Bartlet Mall Commission approves the prospect of change pertaining to the new stone that has been poorly received, if change is preferred by the Parks Commission
- Cheryl Munich has approached Lisë about the Mall as a location for the Newburyport High School Battle of the Bands on July 27 (coincidentally the night before the first day of Art in the Park)
 - This would involve 2 bands, an estimated \$200 in revenue, and 2 porta potties
 - Bartlet Mall Commission settled upon approving the permit request, pending the agreement to clean thoroughly, and pending approval by those more involved with Yankee Homecoming (with a better sense of the needs related to Art in the Park)
 - Walt contacted Jason Lacroix, president of the Yankee Homecoming Board

Bench Refinishing:

- Walt would like to see the benches refinished
- The way they are finished now is with Sherwin Williams stain, but they are ready to be refinished. Possibility of a new shade of stain? When decided upon, consult Parks Commission

Open Discussion:

- Parks Commission plans to recommend that the Mall receive funds to replace Mall signs with new ones that are uniform
- Moving forward, commission will correspond about pending permits, and brainstorm what to incorporate in our wish list for fundraising

To Do (Before Next Meeting):

- Andy: help with torching weeds
- Walt: contact Northern Tool, talk to facility manager at courthouse, contact Julia Godtfardson
- Sadie: correct minutes from last meeting
- Geordie: Introduce Mall improvement plans to Mayor

Next Meeting

Wednesday, August 8, 2012

6:30 PM

Mayor's Conference Room, City Hall