

Bartlet Mall Commission Meeting
June 13, 2012

Date: June 13, 2012

Time: 6:30-8:00

Location: City Hall 2nd Floor Auditorium

Attending: Sue Brown, Sadie Cathcart, Ellen Hanick, Jason Lacroix, Andy Port, Andrew Simpson, Patty Spalding, Walt Thompson, Bob Welsh

Agenda

1. Review/changes to minutes of last meeting
2. History via invited guests (Sue Brown, Bob Welsh, Patty Spalding)
3. Permit applications/Master Calendars
4. Pond water quality/frogs
5. Fountain
6. Grounds (Bob Welsh)
7. Social media
8. Yankee Homecoming events/Monument relocation (YH Board)
9. Open discussion
10. Date for July Meeting

Notes

Review/changes to minutes of last meeting:

- Minutes Approved

History via invited guests:

- Jason Lacroix here representing the Yankee Homecoming Board:
 1. Ralph Ayers would like to see his monument moved, and has contacted YH about his interest
 2. Location of the monument has changed, went from a nine day event (opening ceremonies at the waterfront) to an eight day event (at the Bartlet Mall). The first Saturday was formerly very expensive
 3. Yankee Homecoming receives money for the space used by people with booths at the Mall during YH, which is used to fund YH events. They do not receive a portion of profits from vendors
 4. During YH, YH and DPW are responsible for distribution of trash cans
- Sue and Patty (former commission members and guests to the meeting), how to continue the legacy?:
 1. Committee previously not a longstanding committee
 2. The Bartlet Mall Commission (involving Sue and Patty) created a managing and maintenance plan not long ago that is still relevant, addressing things such as **adding monuments to the Mall**

Permit Applications/Master calendar

- The commission in past years worked hard to earn the right to grant permits
- The managing and maintenance plan includes forms for permit applicants

Pond water quality/frogs and Fountain

- Delta Fountain people came and provided an estimate

- Plan to start fundraising, though would like to know the extent to which funds are necessary before moving forward
- Redesigning the swans in the past may have killed the pumps, smaller orifices
 1. Water quality would be better if the fountain were functional (-talking to conservation commission)
- The water treatment system currently in use at the Mall involves algaecides that are copper based, therefore not recommended for use with animals, therefore introducing frogs this year could be dangerous
- Having a functional fountain would make the chemicals work better
 1. Contact Woods Hole Oceanographic, we can move forward, maybe have frogs in pond
 2. Communicate Further with Jason Lacroix, Assistant Director of Buildings and Grounds at GA (Office: 978-499-3135, Cell: 978-621-2967, jlacroix@govsacademy.org)

Grounds

- Bob Welsh- painting railings on steps, clean up around the edge of Mall
- Possibility that to improve water quality, might disconnect the swans, let water flow freely at least to begin with
- Patty- Mall was intended to be a passive recreation park
 1. Walt approached Chamber about Oktoberfest, example of commercial recreation that went poorly at the Mall, and it is unlikely that it will happen again at the Mall this year
 2. FUEL exercise program has been denied in the past
- Someone saw a large turtle laying eggs in the park, that is why a part of the park bordering a set of steps is sectioned off
- David Zink- two lights need work, something David Zinc is working on
- Walt contacted National Grid, if they don't own poles, they won't fix the light
- David Zinc will have keys to electric panels
- Relationship with courthouse? -commission has tried to eliminate parking from the front of courthouse in the past, the current judge does not approve
- Walt will invite Geordie Vining to the next meeting
- Sea of Green has done weeding in the past, Walt however has plans with Andy to rent a weed burner from Kelly's, borrow a shopping cart, and approach weeding
 1. Vinegar and hand weeding has been attempted in the past, both are not effective
 2. Bob Welsh- the new weeds begin growing faster than pulling the weeds can possibly be done by one person
- Sea of Green has been paid for through user fees in the past
- Keeping water clean, something to the tune of 2-4 thousand dollars each year
 1. Putting an aerator in could knock the price back a little
- Patty- the dock was not originally intended to be a dock, but was first installed for people to put their skates on during the winter carnival, and later became a dock

Open Discussion

- There had been talk of the farmer's market taking place at the Mall far before it began at the Tannery, original efforts were made by Liz Peirce
- Some approvals granted by the commission in the past involve Chris Bollick's wedding, the Newburyport Montessori School, memorial services, among other events
- Youth services regularly uses the Mall
- To note: Bob Welsh is paid hourly
- The significance of the signs currently at the Mall is that they were donated, therefore changing the design is a sore subject for a woman in town who recently had them improved

To Do (Before Next Meeting)

- Walt will talk to folks at Woods Hole about aerators
- Walt and Andy Simpson will approach the weed burner situation
- Walt will invite Geordie to next meeting
- Sadie will email Andy Port about linking the facebook page to the Parks Commission

Next Meeting

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

6:30 PM

City Hall Auditorium