

Newburyport Redevelopment Authority Meeting Agenda

Agenda --- **August 13, 2019 at 7: 00 PM**

Location: Newburyport City Council Auditorium

1. Public Comment

- a) Re: agenda items

2. Updates

- b) Dumpster and Recycling Enclosure / Soil Disposal Spring 2019 Construction Update

3. Central Waterfront Parcel Dispositions & Next Steps

- a) Council's order on dissolution of the Authority - Discussion of steps to be taken by the Authority in anticipation of passage such as:
 - 1. lists of accounts
 - 2. Transfer of deed of land next to the Harbor Master's headquarters: transfer of Lot C on Land Court Plan No. 4588B to the City of Newburyport for open space and recreational purposes
 - 3. outstanding action items
 - 4. outstanding obligations
- b) City's plan to limit parking on the central waterfront. Please see correspondence from Andy Port, City Planner
Per our phone conversation yesterday, the City is planning to remove approximately 125 spaces from the central waterfront (*NRA East and West Lots*) during the week of September 9th. The goal is to have the configuration changes made prior to the following week when the City's traffic consultant will be evaluating changes in downtown traffic patterns as required by both the Planning Board and City Council. This is a timely matter requiring coordination with, and support from, the NRA. I ask that you add this item to the NRA's agenda for 8/13 so that this matter can be discussed and voted upon that evening.
As background, the Planning Board placed a condition on the permit for our new Parking Garage calling for the removal of no less than 100 spaces from the central waterfront commensurate with opening of this new facility. The Mayor and others were concerned about the abrupt removal of so many parking spaces during our peak season which will taper off after Labor Day. As such, we are planning to cordon off these spaces in mid-September. While the new park has not yet been designed and constructed, there has been general consensus on where park expansion will occur, and that parking must be removed from the central waterfront to accommodate the additional park space desired. Now that the new Parking Garage is open it makes sense

to begin getting everyone accustomed to the relocation of parking spaces rather than reinforcing the unfortunate habit of parking all those vehicles on our central waterfront.

The Planning Board and City Council also called for a traffic study of downtown Newburyport post-opening of the Parking Garage. The purpose of the study is to evaluate downtown traffic flows now that the Parking Garage is open, and to provide recommendations for any changes we may want to make for the purpose of improving downtown traffic patterns. This traffic study would not be an accurate reflection of projected future conditions if counts are undertaken while there are still so many spaces on the central waterfront. As most everyone has agreed, the intent here has been to relocate waterfront parking spaces to the Parking Garage, rather than to maintain waterfront parking spaces simultaneously. A reduction in central waterfront parking (*with spaces relocated to the Parking Garage*) is expected to reduce vehicular congestion in Market Square, particularly in light of those vehicles currently looking for parking on the NRA East Lot.

The attached sketch depicts the location of parking spaces to be removed (*shaded in RED*) and the approximate “arc” or “spine” of the park expansion areas we’ve all talked about (*depicted as a dashed yellow line*). While it might be ideal to reconfigure the existing parking lots in their entirety this would involve much more work with only marginal benefit. As such, these areas coincide roughly with the projected areas of park expansion, but not exactly. Obviously when park improvements are made there will be a more substantial effort made to reconfigure the lots for efficiency and alignment with the definitive park “spine” or rail trail path.

We are currently looking at options for interim improvements to the “Future Park Space” areas, including but not limited to grass, synthetic turf and/or site amenities. And while we have no intention of leaving these areas as dirt in the interim, we must evaluate the cost of temporary improvements against their eventual removal and replacement with permanent park improvements at additional cost. I welcome any suggestions the NRA membership may have on what interim site improvements would be appropriate. Having said that, the important timely action required from the NRA is approval of the attached plan.

4. Newburyport Redevelopment Authority Business

- a) Open meeting complaint
- b) Review Invoices
- c) Artist Huts
- d) Treasurer’s Report

- e) Review and Approve Meeting Notes from June

5. Next Meetings - NRA Monthly Meetings – City Hall Auditorium

- a) September 10, 2019 - 7:00pm
- b) October 8, 2019 - 7:00pm
- c) November 12, 2019 - 7:00pm (Police Station Conference Room)
- d) December 10, 2019 - 7:00pm