

**Minutes of the Newburyport Parks Commission
June 25, 2018**

Call to order: 7:00 p.m.
A quorum was present

In attendance: Kim Turner, Ann Dykes, Ann Lagasse

Also In attendance: Lisë Reid, Michael Hennessey, Walt Thompson

REVIEW MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve Parks Commission January 11 Minutes, as amended, by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Dykes. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to take items out of order by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Dykes. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Banning use of Roundup

Walt Thompson asked the commission to ban use of Roundup, or Glyphosate. Commissioners discussed benefits vs. risks of using herbicides. They considered staff resources, environmental considerations, policies in other communities, and alternative approaches to weed control. Commissioner Dykes suggested setting a policy that is environmentally friendly and educating the public based on that policy. Commissioner Turner suggested that landscapers doing work on city property should be required to present a landscape proposal to the Parks Commission. Commissioners would decide approach to weed control on a case by case basis.

Motion that contractors working on city parks property be required to present a landscape management proposal to the Parks Commission that would be renewable annually by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Dykes. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Little Free Pantry

Commissioners considered a proposal by volunteers to place a Little Free Pantry on the Clipper City Rail Trail. The pantry would provide free snacks to trail users. Volunteers would stock and maintain it. Commissioners discussed the proposal including use of a security lock to control opening during certain hours, placing the pantry near an existing trash can, addressing liability considerations with signage, and contamination of food.

Motion to approve the Little Free Pantry on the Clipper City Rail Trail on a pilot basis through October 31, 2018 pending approval of the Police Department; with notification that the city is not liable, with wording to be approved by City Solicitor, by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Dykes. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

New Shed at Perkins Park

Motion to approve installation of new shed by Newburyport Youth Services at Perkins Park by Commissioner Dykes, seconded by Commissioner Turner. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Additional Dog Waste Stations at Atkinson

Commissioners discussed the addition of new dog waste bag dispensers at Atkinson Common with regard to how much time it adds to staff load. Parks Manager Hennessey informed that board they would have to fill the dispensers every other week. **Motion to approve installation of additional dog bag dispensers at Atkinson Common by Commissioner Lagasse, seconded by Commissioner Dykes. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

West Row

Motion to extend through May 15, 2019 West Row Café's license to place outdoor seating on a portion of Inn Street, requiring that licensee submit a plan for renewal of existing license by March 15, 2019 by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Lagasse. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Parking at Atwood Park

The item was tabled until Fee subcommittee reviews parking fees.

Woodman Park

Motion to receive and file a communication from a neighbor of Woodman Park who is unhappy about athletic event parking in the neighborhood by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Lagasse. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Noise on Rail Trail

Motion to receive and file a communication about noise on the Phase II stretch of the Clipper City Rail Trail by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Lagasse. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion to receive and file a communication about removal of the Willow trees at Bartlet Mall by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Lagasse. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Commissioners asked Director Reid to put a conversation about Inn Street tot lot seating on the next agenda.

Parks Director update

There was a discussion about a new location for the Parks Department Field Office. The item was tabled until a future meeting.

Adjourned 8:18 p.m.