

**Minutes of the Newburyport Parks Commission
February 21, 2019**

Senior Community Center Computer Lab

Call to order: 6:02 p.m.
A quorum was present

In attendance: Kimberly Turner, Charles Griffin, Karen Popken, Ann Lagasse, Matthew Ellsworth

Also In attendance: Michael Hennessey, Lise Reid, see sign in sheet

REVIEW MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve January 2019 meeting minutes by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Popken. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion to table November 2018 meeting minutes by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Turner. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to take the agenda out of order by Commissioner Lagasse, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Banning Of Glyphosate in City Parks

Commissioners considered a petition to ban in city parks the use of glyphosate, the chemical used in herbicide products including Roundup and Rodeo. Commissioners listened to residents concerns. Commissioner Turner stated that the Parks Department has already taken strides to reduce use of herbicides, using them only when necessary. She also stated that the commission is not comfortable “banning” the product as it does not have the authority to tell the department how to do its job, but would consider recommending discontinuing use. She stated we need more information about alternates, their efficacy and funding before making a decision to ban the chemical. Commissioner Popken asked about alternatives. Parks Manager Hennessey explained the benefits of glyphosate and the lack of evidence he has found to support it as a carcinogen. Commissioner Griffin stated he needs more scientific information before making a decision. **Motion to recommend discontinued use of glyphosate in city parks by Commissioner Popken, seconded by Commissioner Turner. So voted on a four to one voice vote.**

Santarelli Bench Plaque Installation

Commissioners listened to a request to install a 10”x10” bench plaque at Joppa Park to be mounted on a support next to a bench sponsored in memorial of Chris Santarelli. Commissioners voiced concerns about parks being used as memorial gardens. **Motion to approve plaque installed on a bench at Joppa**

Park not to exceed the size of the largest existing bench plaque at Joppa by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Turner. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Rail Trail Bridge Lettering Proposal

Commissioners listened to a proposal to paint the Clipper City Rail Trail bridge that spans Merrimac Street. Proposal to base painting on a historic lettering theme. **Item was tabled pending a refined price quote.**

Permission to distribute pet ashes at Moseley Woods

Motion to approve request to bury pet ashes at Moseley Woods beneath an evergreen the Parks Department will be planting in spring 2019 by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Lagasse. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Atkinson Common wetlands cleanup

Commissioners considered a Parks Department request to perform a wetlands cleanup at Atkinson Common. **Motion to table the item pending a site walk in spring by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**