

**Minutes of the Newburyport Parks Commission  
September 17, 2020**

*Senior Community Center Outdoor Tent, 331 High Street, Newburyport  
& Zoom*

Call to order: 5:03 p.m.  
A quorum was present

In attendance: Kim Turner, Charles Griffin, Paul Swindlehurst, Matthew Ellsworth

Also In attendance: Lisë Reid, Michael Hennessey, Christine Wallace, Andy Masia, Kasey Edwards, Jane Snow, Ben Iacono, Bob Uhlig, David Keery, Stephen Sawyer.

**REVIEW MEETING MINUTES**

**Motion to table review of August 20 meeting minutes by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

*Removal of Trees at Cushing Park*

Commissioners considered a request by Meg White of 19 Congress Street to remove Norway Maples along her property line at Cushing Park. **Motion to allow removal of Norway maples at Cushing Park if funding is provided by the homeowner making the request or if DPW or other city resources become available to do so by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Swindlehurst. Roll call vote, 3Y, 1A (CG)**

*Approval of Trista Zinck Memorial Garden*

Commissioner Turner presented her design for the Trista Zinck Memorial Garden at Cherry Hill. She said the family would be able to fund at least half of the \$6,000 budget for installation and that she had received assurances the City would be able to make up the difference. She added that the City should not be responsible for maintaining the garden.

Director Reid voiced her opinion that the fencing specified in the design was not appropriate for that particular park space.

**Motion to accept garden design as presented and allow installation of a memorial garden in for Trista Zinck on park property contingent on a successfully negotiated memorandum of understanding between the City and the Zinck family for**

**maintenance of the memorial by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

*Lower Atkinson Common Master Plan*

Bob Uhlig of Halvorson Design presented preliminary plans for reconfiguration of Lower Atkinson Common. Commissioners listened to concerns about changes to the width of travel lanes on Merrimac Street, especially about narrowing too much to safely accommodate bicycles; whether wetlands depicted on map is accurate; chronic issues with drainage on the west side of the park due to a clogged catch basing and causing mosquito issues on Moulton Street; encroachment on the drainage system on the east side of the existing connector road from Upper to Lower Atkinson; the roof of the proposed building being able to shed snow; the need for safety lighting in the parking area and near clubhouse; keeping the tree buffer behind Hawkes field to prevent stadium lights shining into residences on Moulton Street; whether a half basketball court is big enough and that neighbors would love a full court; and size of the batting cages. Mr. Uhlig said they would make some plan revisions to address concerns. The commission took no further action.

*Alteration of 270 Water Street license agreement, sale of 270a Water Street*

Commissioners discussed National Grid's proposal to alter the City's use agreement for 270 Water Street to allow them to sell 270a. Commissioners were concerned with giving up open space for development and whether the existing agreement allows for such amendment. Director Reid said she would investigate further regarding the agreement and whether the land can be developed.

*Dog Free zone at Ayers Playground, other playgrounds*

The item was tabled pending further research about common practices regarding restricting dogs from parks.