

Minutes of the Newburyport Parks Commission

December 17, 2020

Via Zoom

Call to order: 6:021 p.m.

A quorum was present

Link to meeting recording

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/7keqkMM_qAD8FvmUKltilePp1TGsv20HSrdPvIvhYMpnGihZ1VM9Rc2sDBvImBt-.zYsl-LmW4k4zY6hx?startTime=1608246102000

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

Also In attendance: Lisë Reid, Richard Jakes, Alden Clark

REVIEW MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve October meeting minutes without changes by Commissioner Swindlehurst, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

CCRT bike-pedestrian safety accommodations

Director Reid briefly presented a solution to bicycle-pedestrian conflicts on Rail Trail by using an approach of pedestrians on one side and bikes on the other. Richard Jakes of Dawes Street commented in favor of the approach. Tabled pending further research about what other communities are doing including: what type of striping to use; whether Coastal Trails Coalition has considered this approach or if Amesbury and Salisbury are considering it; experiences of communities who have recently used this approach and also those who have had it in place for a while. Commissioner Ellsworth not in favor of vertical signs. Commissioner Turner not in favor of yellow lines. Commissioner Griffin prefers symbols on the path rather than signage. Alden Clark of 15 Lunt Street spoke in favor of the approach and importance of public education component. Richard Jakes offered to send images to Director Reid.

Appoint Representative to Community Preservation Committee

Motion to appoint Commissioner Griffin to serve on the Community Preservation Committee by Commissioner Swindlehurst, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Overuse & access issues at Perkins Park

Commissioners considered complaints about use of Perkins Park basketball court for pickle ball and park access needs. Commissioner Turner suggests basketball court not be used for pickle ball. Director Reid suggests removing lines from basketball court. Asked Director Reid to review minutes about pickle ball on basketball courts at Perkins Park. Tabled conversation about master plan for Perkins Park until a future meeting.

Story Walk on CCRT

Commissioners discussed proposal to install a Story Walk in a city park, potentially the Rail Trail. Concerns included maintenance, i.e. rapid deterioration of signs or making the installation temporary, lack of space on Rail Trail. Suggestion to install it at Maudslay State Park. Item tabled pending a more complete proposal.

Walkway material at Bartlet Mall

Item tabled pending further research about alternative walkway surfaces including Macadam.

Leaving up tennis nets year round

Motion to re-install tennis nets during winter months on a temporary basis in reaction to COVID-19 pandemic by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Swindlehurst. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Geocache at Moseley Woods

Motion to approve Geocache at Moseley Woods by Commissioner Griffin seconded by Commissioner Swindlehurst. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

New bench at Market Square

Commissioners discussed a proposal to put an additional bench at Market Square. Item tabled pending further on-site review by Commissioner Turner

Atwood Park lighting, discussion

Commissioners considered adding lighting to Atwood Park and recommend further research about pricing and fixture style in preparation for Community Preservation Act funding this year.

Residents only at Moseley Woods

Director Reid presents the request from residents to limit Moseley Woods admission to residents only to address issues of disrespect at the park. Commissioner Turner speaks about need to protect access to open space for everybody. Commissioners discouraged pursuing this topic.



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Adjourned 7:29 p.m.