

Minutes of the Newburyport Parks Commission

April 12, 2021

Via Zoom

Call to order: 6:02 p.m.

A quorum was present

Link to meeting recording

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/UFijDjH3gnpxlcEe-LCiduetv-56eKJ6HOMsaaprp0vHEY118DIIGgiz-pvMUCEi.g_JnS2ycUX8wU5up?startTime=1618264791000

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

Also In attendance: Lisë Reid, Michael Hennessey, Andy and Deb Masia, Jon-Eric White, Christine Wallace, Jane Snow, Charles Tontar, Tim DeGraves, John Santaniello, Greg Gingras

Motion to take agenda items out of order by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. Roll call vote, 3Y

Removal of Arborvitae at Lower Atkinson Common

Commissioners considered removing overgrown arborvitae from Merrimac Street edge of Lower Atkinson Common as part of furthering the master plan for Lower Atkinson, but also to support short term efforts to improve traffic safety. City Engineer Jon-Eric White explained the traffic safety benefits of completing this task.

Motion to remove the trees if deemed necessary by Jon-Eric White contingent that the revised plan made sense by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. Roll call vote, 4Y

Vera Ristorante outdoor seating license approval

Motion to approve a license for outdoor restaurant seating on Inn Street from May 15 through November 14, 2021, and adjust the fee this year to an amount equal to \$2,500 payable in six equal installments starting in May through November by Commissioner Swindlehurst, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. Roll call vote, 3Y 1N (Commissioner Turner)

Beech Tree Donation for Atkinson Common

Motion to plan a new beech tree at Atkinson Common in the vicinity of the other beech trees near the front of the park by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. Roll call vote, 4Y

Brown Square Surfacing

Motion to approve construction of a wooden deck according to plan presented by Wellington Augusto of Mission Oak Grille to allow for restaurant dining while protecting park trees with construction supervision by Parks Manager Mike Hennessey and that the Parks Commission has the right to re-evaluate and request removal of the structure in November 2021 by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. Roll call vote, 3Y, 1N (Commissioner Swindlehurst)

Director Reid clarified that the commission is not voting on use of the park space, because fee-free use of the park for outdoor dining permission has already been given by Mayor Holaday in response to COVID relief. The commission is giving permission for Mission Oak to build the proposed deck.

Black Earth Compost barrel at Cherry Hill

Motion to allow installation of Black Earth Compost barrel at Cherry Hill with permission to install a second barrel if needed by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. Roll call vote, 4Y

New Bench Donation at Perkins Park

Item continued until a future meeting.

Moving Wall at Moseley Woods

Item continued until a future meeting

Motion to approve the removal and relocation of beech tree at Bartlett Mall by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. Roll call vote, 4Y

Tree Plan review Bartlett Mall

Motion to approve tree planting plan for Bartlett Mall created by Commissioner Turner by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. Roll call vote, 4Y

Adjourned 7:47 p.m.