

Newburyport Waterfront Trust
Online Meeting
February 22, 2023
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Acting Chair Matt Pieniazek called an online meeting of the Newburyport Waterfront Trust to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were Trustees Leslie Eckholdt, Matt Pieniazek and Dan Mello. Mike Sullivan was absent.

3. Minutes

Leslie Eckholdt moved to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2023, meeting. Dan Mello seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 3-0 vote (Matt Pieniazek, yes; Leslie Eckholdt, yes; Dan Mello, yes).

4. Election of Officers

The election of officers was postponed.

5. Expanding the Number of Trustees

Mike Sullivan and Matt Pieniazek met with a prospective Trustee and forwarded his name to the Mayor's Office. The Mayor replied that a letter of interest and resume should be submitted and he is in the process of interviewing his own potential candidates. The Trustees would like to be able to meet these candidates, as their ability to work well together is of prime importance. Leslie Eckholdt said she might know other potential candidates. The number of Trustees might be increased to seven.

6. Regular Business

a) Treasurer's Report

Leslie Eckholdt distributed the disbursement and income report electronically. She said the accounts receivable totaled approximately \$29,000 and included \$532.50 for the *Captain's Lady*; \$750 for the bank beds; \$2,215.50 from the Firehouse and \$24,753.16 from the City, of which \$22,500 is for the parking contract.

Roz Manley will be asked to issue the invoices for the winter boats. The winter boats will not be able to use the embayment next year, which will result in the loss of revenue for the Trust. The City should be aware that not only is the Trust contributing towards the park development and bulkhead repairs, but will also be impacted financially during the construction of the park.

Leslie Eckholdt suggested moving the money from the Newburyport Five checking account and the Fidelity account to the Institute for Savings, which pays an interest rate of 4.4% on accounts with balances over \$250,000. The ability to do this would depend on the cash flow. The Trust has earmarked \$50,000 for the City for the

Newburyport Waterfront Trust
February 22, 2023

bulkhead repair and the temporary power in the park. She will obtain the interest rate for the Fidelity Account and will contact the Newburyport Five about the possibility of matching the interest rate at the Institution for Savings.

Matt Pieniazek will contact Dan Schaffner, who prepares the tax returns. The parking income from the City is structured as a program service fee. The Trust is limited on the amount that it is able to receive from program service fees. Mr. Schaffner suggested that the parking fee should be converted to a grant.

b) Approval of Invoices

The bills will now be sent to the accountant for payment two times per month. Dan Mello moved to approve the payment of the following invoices: Edith Heyck, \$1,196.67 for monthly park manager services; Gretchen Joy, \$165 for note taking; Tom Joy, \$434.22 for boardwalk repairs; CSE Electric for \$155 and \$408; American Express for \$523.47 for signs and a plaque, Ritz Payroll for \$91.50 for the generation of the 1099s; SLS for \$151 for leaf pickup and Fritz Deguglielmo for \$1,000 for tax return preparation. Matt Pieniazek seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 3-0 vote (Matt Pieniazek, yes; Leslie Eckholdt, yes; Dan Mello, yes).

7. Ongoing Projects

a) Market Landing Park Expansion

Matt Pieniazek said there has been no progress on which to report, but there should be some developments before the next meeting.

b) Harris Memorial

The suggestion of naming the new Way to the Water for Bill Harris was sent to the Ad Hoc Committee and was acknowledged.

c) Firehouse Lease

An addendum will be added to the lease to renew it for one year at the current rate.

8. Park Committee Report

a) Use Applications

No action was necessary on the application from the Shark radio station for Riverfest for August 26. The event will not be held on Trust property this year due to the construction.

The Newburyport Public Schools submitted an application for a concert on May 20. A fee had been charged in the past but was waived last year. The event does not create a great deal of wear and tear on the park, but the income from application fees is needed to subsidize its maintenance. Dan Mello moved to approve the application from the Newburyport Public Schools for a fee of \$0-\$250 for this year in consideration of the circumstances. Leslie Eckholdt seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 3-0 vote (Matt Pieniazek, yes; Leslie Eckholdt, yes; Dan Mello, yes).

Newburyport Waterfront Trust
February 22, 2023

The Chamber of Commerce will submit an application for Spring Fest on June 3 and 4 and the Custom House will submit an application for the Newburyport Maritime Days for June 30 to July 8.

b) Park Manager's Report

Edith Heyck thanked the Trustees for her raise. She said signs have been posted in the park indicating the walkways might be slippery. She is working to have the flagpole painted. It will be assessed for any structural damage. The local chapter of the Disabled American Veterans will contribute to the cost. The crossing sign at the foot of Green Street will be put back in place in April.

9. Adjournment

Dan Mello moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m. Leslie Eckholdt seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 3-0 vote (Matt Pieniazek, yes; Leslie Eckholdt, yes; Dan Mello, yes).