

Newburyport Waterfront Trust
Police Station Conference Room
May 17, 2017
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Steve Hines called a regular meeting of the Newburyport Waterfront Trust to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Steve Hines introduced new Trustee Sean Bradley. Also in attendance were Trustees Wilbur Shenk and George Ellison. Dan Mello was absent.

3. Minutes

Wilbur Shenk moved to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2017 meeting as amended. George Ellison seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Treasurer's Report

Wilbur Shenk reported income for the month of April was \$20,574 and expenses totaled \$4,968, resulting in a positive cash flow of \$15,606. The account balance is \$212,204.

Wilbur Shenk moved to approve the payment of bills totaling approximately \$9,051, which in addition to the reoccurring expenses for bookkeeping services, minute taking, portable toilet rental, the landscaping contract and the park manager's salary includes payments for loam, striping of the parking lot and additional landscaping, George Ellison seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Riverside Park Improvements

The lines and arrows in the parking lot have been painted. The project is substantially complete. The installation of the lighting near the Ale House and the landscaping of the islands remain to be done.

6. Waterfront Trust Amendment

The Trustees discussed the written recommendations the Ad Hoc Central Waterfront Committee submitted to the City Council. Subsequently Steve Hines, accompanied by Wilbur Shenk, met with Bob Uhlig and Leslie Eckholdt of the NRA. He also met with Mayor Holaday, accompanied by George Ellison. He recommended the Waterfront Trust function as an enterprise system. He envisions the Trust obtaining ownership of the waterside and the parking lots and leasing the land to the City. George Ellison said he believes the Mayor and the City Council are in favor of funding the Trust, but not through parking revenue, which would be earmarked for other uses. He anticipates the City would wish to control the east lot and develop a visitor center tied to the restrooms, which could be met with some resistance.

7. Waterfront Committee Report

The new ticket booth has been installed. Some granite blocks were removed in the process and were used to form the edge of the new berm. The owner of the *Ninth Wave* intends to return his signed contract and has submitted a check.

8. Parks Committee Report

The work to expand the berm has begun. The remainder of the fill and the loam will be added this week and the irrigation system will be installed next week.

Wilbur Shenk moved to accept a proposal from Robinson Masonry to repoint the stage and balusters for a price not to exceed \$16,000. George Ellison seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The work will begin after Memorial Day.

Steve Hines will contact Joe Leone about the landscaping near the Ale House, which is rather minimal.

Park Use Applications

Wilbur Shenk moved to approve an application for a wedding on May 28. George Ellison seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. A deposit for a third cancelled wedding will be refunded.

Steve Hines reported he has met with the new director of the Firehouse, John Moynihan, who expressed an interest in scheduling future events in the park.

Park Manager's Report

Edith Heyck reported the restrooms are now open. She has created a map of the light fixtures. The owner of the Sea Level Oyster Bar expressed interest in removing trees behind the Firehouse to open up a view corridor. It was agreed one major branch could be pruned. An estimate of \$6,200 was received for installing soil and plant materials in the parking lot island. The electrical box was vandalized and the sockets must be replaced. The installation of a cage around the box would provide protection. Improved lighting in the area would also be beneficial.

9. Public Comment

Bill Harris, 56 Lime Street, said progress has been made with the City and the Mayor Holaday now recognizes the importance of an independent Trust.

Rob Germinara, 2 Ashland Street, said it would be a mistake to tie the parking garage to revenue from waterfront parking.

10. Adjournment

George Ellison moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Wilbur Shenk seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.