

Newburyport Waterfront Trust
Online Meeting
May 20, 2020
Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

In attendance were Trustees Sean Bradley, Steve Hines, Wilbur Shenk, Matt Pieniazek and Dan Mello. Park Manager Edith Heyck and note taker Gretchen Joy were also in attendance.

3. Minutes

Matt Pieniazek moved to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2020, meeting as submitted. Wilbur Shenk seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Treasurer's Report

The cash balance on April 30 was \$256,432, down \$6,236 from the previous month. Revenue for the month was \$9 in interest. Expenses for the month totaled \$6,445 and included \$3,316 for the replacement of lamps on the boardwalk, \$715 for quarterly bookkeeping services; \$294 for handyman services; \$1,682 for the park manager and minute taker; \$200 for portable toilets rental; \$75 for website maintenance; \$32.87 for web hosting fees and \$55 for postage.

The Firehouse owes \$8,862, the payment for a full year. A payment plan was submitted in March. The first payment was to be made on April 30 but was not received. The Trustees do not expect the Firehouse will be able to make any payments at this time, but are not willing to write off the amount owed. Invoices will continue to be sent to keep the records accurate. The Trust will work out a payment agreement with the Firehouse at a later date.

The NRA owes \$8,413 and \$17,500 is due from the City for the first quarter of the parking contract.

5. Chair's Report

The draft lease has been sent to Mayor Holaday and the Harbor Commission.

6. Waterfront Committee Report

Bill Taplan contacted Steve Hines to ask if could sell his boat as business with a dock space. He was told this would not be possible but he would be able to renew his contract if he does not sell his boat. A small charter fishing boat has possibly been found to fill the space vacated by the *Ninth Wave*. This would be a good fit and would not conflict with the *Yankee Clipper*. Wilson Welding will repair the ramp to make it usable for this year. It might be necessary to purchase a new ramp next year. It is not economically viable for the *Captain's Lady* to operate with a reduced number of passengers. The Trustees would not want to lose the party boat next year and will

Newburyport Waterfront Trust
May 20, 2020

work with Chris Charos to make his return possible. The boat is currently being docked on the central waterfront. Dan Mello suggested the boat might be used as a dining facility.

7. Park Use Applications

Meghan Kinsey asked permission to hold yoga or barre classes in the park. Fuel has been holding outdoor classes each year and at the March 18 meeting, the Trustees approved an application from Sarah Oleson for yoga classes on Sunday mornings. The Trustees have some concern about damage to the lawn but also do not want the classes to conflict with the use of the park by the public. Ms. Kinsey said she is working with the Parks Department on other locations for her classes and she would be agreeable with any time or space the Trust would allow.

The Trustees are willing to working with the groups requesting to use the park for outdoor sessions. They might limit the use to one class per day or require that the sessions be held early in the morning to minimize conflict with the public. Their main concern is with the need for social distancing. Any group using the park must follow State and City guidelines. The limitations on class size is not known. The three groups will be notified that the Trust will work with them to develop a schedule for classes after further guidance on social distancing requirements has been received.

8. Park Committee Report

Edith Heyck reported:

- she would like to train a deputy manager for 20 hours at a cost of \$25 per hour. She will submit an estimate of the additional cost to the Trust for the work the assistant would do.
- the lawn has been mowed and fertilized.
- the trees have been sprayed for winter moths.
- she has hired a horticultural specialist to develop a plant list for the park.
- the irrigation system will be turn on June 1. DPS has promised to provide a water spigot.
- the hanging of the flag will be delayed because of the need for tree pruning and halyard repaired.

9. Other Business

- Steve Hines spoke with Tony Furnari about the areas in the east and west lots where the City planted grass seed. The ground is rutted and the grass has not spread evenly, making the areas unsightly.
- Joe Leone asked to be allowed to place tables on the rocks beside the Black Cow.
- Dan Mello will set up an account for remote meetings.

10. Public Comment

None

11. Adjournment

Wilbur Shenk moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. Dan Mello seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.