

Newburyport Waterfront Trust
Online Meeting
June 16, 2021
Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

In attendance were Trustees Wilbur Shenk, Matt Pieniazek, Mike Sullivan, Dan Mello and Sean Bradley.

3. Minutes

Matt Pieniazek moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2021, meeting. Dan Mello seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote (Wilbur Shenk, yes; Matt Pieniazek, yes; Dan Mello, yes; Sean Bradley, yes; Mike Sullivan, absent).

4. Regular Business

Treasurer's Report

Sean Bradley reported the cash balance on May 31 was \$277,605. Cash receipts from operations exceeded cash disbursements by \$3,980 for the month. Cash received for the month totaled \$24,020 and included \$3 in interest; a wedding deposit in the amount of \$100; a payment from the City for the parking contract in the amount of \$17,500; contributions in the name of Bill Harris totaling \$1,650 and reimbursement from the City for the light poles in the amount of \$755, the park manager's salary for the months of February and March in the amount of \$882 and the parking percentage in the amount of \$3,130. The Fidelity account realized investment income of \$886.

Operating expenses for the month totaled \$10,039 and included payments to SLS for the monthly landscaping base in the amount of \$2,372, Pop Up Park maintenance in the amount of \$1,194 and new lawn area maintenance in the amount of \$1,494; to the City for snow removal in the amount of \$2,000; to the gardeners in the amount of \$3,033; to Atlantic Fence for the repair of the dumpster gate in the amount of \$750; to Edith Heyck for supplies and U-Haul rental in the amount of \$264.50; to Chris Charos for dock repair in the amount of \$6,400; for monthly park manager and minute taker services in the amount of \$1,798; \$500 for postage and stamps and \$233 for flowers for the planting beds.

The Firehouse has an outstanding balance of \$3,146. The City has an outstanding balance of \$19,332. A check in that amount was received in early June.

5. Ongoing Projects

a) Memorandum of Understanding

Mayor Holaday signed the MOU on June 7.

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b) Harbor Commission/City Lease

Wilbur Shenk and Matt Pieniazek will meet with the Chair of the Harbor Commission and the Harbormaster regarding the draft lease.

c) Ad Hoc Park Expansion Plans

The next meeting of the Ad Hoc Central Waterfront Committee is scheduled for June 30. It is expected that the preliminary plans will be presented to the public in September.

d) Parking Agreement

Discussions on the renewal of the parking agreement will not take place until after the lease with the Harbor Commission has been signed.

e) Light Replacement

The Harbormaster is to replace the electrical box in the embayment.

f) Boardwalk Repairs

Wilbur Shenk said John Hartnett cautioned him about replacing individual boards on the boardwalk. The condition under the boards is not known. Tom Joy has replaced small sections of boards, which seems to be a successful approach. The boards near the picnic tables are in the poorest condition. He will be asked to plane the boards that create a tripping hazard.

g) Summer Commercial Boat Leases

The invoices are being produced and should be available within the next week. Dan Mello will contact the captain of the tour boat, which has not yet been put in the water. Edith Heyck will contact Jim Maranto about accessing the meters to take a reading.

h) Dredging

No update.

i) Bill Harris Memorial

To date there have been 13 contributors for a total of \$2,200.

6. Parks Committee Report

a) Park Use Applications

Mike Sullivan moved to approve an application from the Chamber of Commerce for the movie series with a fee of \$400. Dan Mello seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote (Wilbur Shenk, yes; Matt Pieniazek, yes; Dan Mello, yes; Mike Sullivan; Sean Bradley, yes).

The Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center submitted an application for the Annual Walk Against Domestic Violence. The walk is scheduled for October 3 and would attract 200 and 400 participants. The fee for an event of this size would be \$400 according to the scale. A fee of \$135 was charged in 2018. Matt Pieniazek moved to approve the application from

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the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center for the Annual Walk Against Domestic Violence with a fee of \$135. Dan Mello seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote (Wilbur Shenk, yes; Matt Pieniazek, yes; Dan Mello, yes; Mike Sullivan, yes; Sean Bradley, yes).

The fee for Yankee Homecoming had been increasing annually towards a target of \$4,000. Dan Mello moved to approve an application from the Yankee Homecoming Committee with a fee of \$3,750. Matt Pieniazek seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote (Wilbur Shenk, yes; Matt Pieniazek, yes; Dan Mello, yes; Mike Sullivan, yes; Sean Bradley, yes).

Michael Wilson is running across the country to support Lucy's Love Bus, an organization that helps children with cancer. Megan Oleson inquired about the locating the finish line in the park. The date of the event is not yet known. She will be asked to submit an application.

The Local Spread has hosted two picnics in the park and has no additional events scheduled at this time. The owner is still developing her business model and financial structure. Lines of communication with her will remain open. Posh Picnics is a similar business and the same restrictions would be imposed: the park is a passive one, commercial use and advertising are not allowed and picnics must be set up on the sides of the park. It could be determined that the imposition of a fee would be appropriate.

b) Park Manager's Report

Edith Heyck said the focus of work in the park has been on tending the bank beds and the gardens along Custom House Way. Impatiens has been planted in front of the Firehouse. The Greenskeeper had been contracted to water the tree circles and the Pop Up Park. The planters in the Pop Up Park were not watered and the plants are in poor condition. The improvement of the beds along Somerby's Way could be a project for the fall. Three additional Adirondack chairs for the berm will be ordered.

7. New Business

The Firehouse Center for the Arts is coordinating with the Parks Department to present a series of concerts of Elvis Presley songs. The concerts were to have taken place in Cashman Park but were moved to the new east lawn after neighbors objected. The construction of a stage was begun without the Trust being consulted.

David Murphy is interested in extending the sidewalk from the Black Cow along the front of his building at Browns Wharf. The area is Trust property and a legal agreement would be required. It would be necessary to determine the impact the work might have on parking and drainage.

8. Public Comment

Jane Snow suggested the Adirondack chairs could be labeled to prevent theft.

9. Adjournment

Dan Mello moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Mike Sullivan seconded. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote (Wilbur Shenk, yes; Matt Pieniazek, yes; Dan Mello, yes; Mike Sullivan, yes; Sean Bradley, yes).