

**Newburyport Waterfront Trust**  
Online Meeting  
June 21, 2023  
Minutes

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Roll Call**

In attendance were Trustees Matt Pieniasek, Dan Mello, Mike Sullivan and Leslie Eckholdt.

**3. Minutes**

Leslie Eckholdt moved to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2023, meeting. Mike Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote (Matt Pieniasek, yes; Leslie Eckholdt, yes; Dan Mello, yes; Mike Sullivan, yes).

**4. Treasurer's Report**

Leslie Eckholdt reported that on May 31, the balance in the checking account was \$185,822, the balance in the Institution for Savings account was \$19,612 and the balance in the Fidelity account was \$133,000, for a total of \$338,434. She recommended that the checking account be kept at the Newburyport Five, but to move some funds to the Institution for Savings, which pays a higher interest rate. Matt Pieniasek will contact the Newburyport Five about obtaining a comparable rate. The Fidelity Account will be closed in July.

**5. Approval of Invoices**

Mike Sullivan moved to approve the payment of invoices from SLS in the amounts of \$125.00 for the start-up of the irrigation system; \$2,855.56 for monthly lawn care; \$739.50 for the care of two City parcels of lawn; \$2,455.00 for garden edging and \$1,507.50 for Pop Up Park clean up; from Edith Heyck in the amount of \$124.86 for out-of-pocket expenses; from the Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$150.00 for gift cards; from Nunan Florist in the amounts of \$25.48 and \$76.44 for geraniums and the City of Newburyport in the amount of \$2,000 for snow removal on Trust sidewalks. Dan Mello seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote (Matt Pieniasek, yes; Leslie Eckholdt, yes; Dan Mello, yes; Mike Sullivan, yes).

Leslie Eckholdt will obtain information on the line item in the budget for insurance and the percentages of the SLS invoices that are allocated between the City and the Trust.

**6. Ongoing Projects**

**a) Market Landing Park Expansion**

Mike Sullivan will attend a meeting of the Market Landing Ad Hoc Committee on June 22. The bids received for the park expansion project were well above the budget. The City Councilors were charged with finding a way to make the project move forward.

If it were to be delayed, a significant amount of grant money would be lost. Alternatives being considered are a reduction in the scale of the first phase of the project or the dividing of the work into a greater number of phases. The project is expected to begin after Yankee Homecoming,

**b) Bulkhead Repair**

The work to repair the bulkhead is expected to begin in mid to late September. The project should be completed during the winter and should not impact the summer boat rentals.

**c) Boat Leases**

Paul Aziz signed a one-year lease at the rate that had been charged for the *Sydney Lee*. He will attend a future meeting to describe his plans for the use of the dock space. An invoice was sent to Dean Holt for the past year's winter lease. Dan Mello will remind the two captains of the fishing vessels that the embayment will not be available for use next winter. They will be contacted about the 2024-2025 season.

**d) Website**

Dan Mello has set up a gmail account and Google Suite. He has created folders for document storage and a calendar that will remind the Trustees of events and actions that must be taken, such as the mailing of the boat leases.

**7. Park Committee Report**

**a) Park Manager's Report**

Edith Heyck reported that:

- She has been focusing her efforts on the gardens and they are ready for the summer.
- Metal edging has been installed around the stage gardens.
- The Spring Fest occurred, but was rained out the second day.
- She was informed by the DPS that the City would not arrange for the additional cleaning of the temporary restrooms. The facilities are cleaned on Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday. She was told the Trust could pay for additional cleanings if they are desired. The Trustees discussed their concerns about the City's ability to adequately fund the maintenance of the expanded park. The Boardwalk is in poor condition and poses a safety hazard, but the City has stated it is not able to provide assistance. The Trust was advised to maintain the boardwalk as best as it is able. A walkaround could be scheduled with the Planning Office to observe the condition of the planks.

Mike Sullivan moved to approve a quote in the amount of \$1,714 for the installation of mulch on Somersby's Way. Leslie Eckholdt seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote (Matt Pieniazek, yes; Leslie Eckholdt, yes; Dan Mello, yes; Mike Sullivan, yes).

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**b) Use Applications**

Mike Sullivan moved to approve an application from the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center for the Annual Walk Against Domestic Violence for 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. on October 1 with the fee of \$135 and the condition that a banner for the event shall not be hung on the Firehouse fence more than one day before the event. Dan Mello seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote (Matt Pieniazek, yes; Leslie Eckholdt, yes; Dan Mello, yes; Mike Sullivan, yes).

**8. Other Business**

**a) Flagpole**

The work to repaint the flagpole will begin shortly.

**b) Meeting Schedule**

The next meetings of the Waterfront Trust will be scheduled for July 19 and August 16.

**c) Chess Table**

Dan Mello said the game of chess is rising in popularity and suggested adding a table on the waterfront. He will look into the cost of a sturdy table.

**9. Adjournment**

Leslie Eckholdt moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Dan Mello seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote (Matt Pieniazek, yes; Leslie Eckholdt, yes; Dan Mello, yes; Mike Sullivan, yes).