

Newburyport Waterfront Trust
August 1, 2011
Police Station Conference Room
Minutes

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Newburyport Waterfront Trust was called to order by Co-Chair Doug Locy at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Cliff Goudey, Joseph Brown, Catherine Russell, Joyce Enderle and Doug Locy and Manager Charlie Nichols.

3. Call for New Agenda Items

Additional items: David Murphy signage request, Brown's Wharf lease

4. Routine Business

Minutes

Joe Brown moved to approve the minutes of the July 11 meeting as submitted. Cliff Goudey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Manager's Report

Charlie Nichols reported that:

- ND Landscape replaced three irrigation heads. Market Landing Park, the bank beds and the gardens on either side of the stage are irrigated.
- he cleaned out the fountain.
- he asked ND Landscape to prune the shrubs in the NRA bed near the restroom to improve visibility.
- three trees behind Not Your Average Joes are failing, along with a fourth nearby. He would like them to be removed whenever DPS is available to do it. The stumps will be removed at the cost of \$75 each.
- he has suspended the watering around the elk and in the three bump outs.
- the center island has been weeded.
- there are weeds around the kiosk. Hosta might be transplanted to the area.
- he would like to discuss snow removal with DPS as the season gets closer. Joe Brown said the Trustees should discuss the issue before any agreements are made.
- the park was well picked up after the River Concert.

6. Treasurer's Report

Doug Locy prepared a pie chart showing revenues between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011. The revenues included the T dock rentals, the Brown's Wharf and Firehouse leases, and parking revenues. Future revenues were discussed, which include the City's payment for parking. Fees for the use of the park are difficult to predict. Doug said he would like to receive more grants and donations. Expenses included bills from ND

Landscape, Charlie Nichols, the Greenskeeper and the Handyman, along with the transaction and monthly fees for parking. Cliff Goudey will cancel the parking contract.

7. Applications for Park Use

Cliff Goudey said received a complaint about a guitar player who is in the park almost days. He said commercial activity is not allowed without a permit. Bill Harris said an activity should not be considered a commercial one if a fee is not charged and music should not be prohibited as long as it is not amplified. No action will be taken at this time. Doug Locy said he sent an application to a face painter. The Trustees discussed how the face painter and balloon maker differ from musicians, when all activities are compensated by donations. Face painting and balloon making are seen more as businesses.

8. Brown's Wharf Signage

Cliff Goudey said David Murphy brought the lack of visibility of the businesses at Brown's Wharf to his attention. A sign might be added at the entrance to Somerby's Way. The businesses might pay for the installation of the sign. The tenants include four retail spaces and four offices. The Black Cow, the Chamber of Commerce, the tour boats, the lighting store and the coffee shop might also be interested in participating. David Murphy is putting together a committee to work on the design of a sign, which will then be brought to the Trustees for approval. Cliff Goudey or Joe Brown will attend the meetings of the committee.

9. Delineation of Waterfront Trust Land

Joe Brown said there were four Saab vehicles along with a booth and flag blocking the entrance to Somerby's Way during the River Concert. Booths extended along Merrimac Street from the Firehouse to the Chamber of Commerce information booth. Joe said the pins that were installed in the 70s should be located in order to delineate the Trust's land. Stephanie Hufnagel has said that several NRA parking spaces are on WFT property. Bill Harris suggested obtaining plans from the Registry of Deeds in Salem. The NRA will survey the land as its plans for development move forward.

10. Ferry Wharf Way

Joe Brown said he would like the NRA to transfer Ferry Wharf Way to the WFT. At the expiration of the urban renewal plan in 2005, the land was to be conveyed to the City and added to the Trust's land. Doug Locy will speak with James Shanley about the issue.

11. Policy for Recognizing Trustees

Doug Locy said he would like to establish a policy for recognizing Trustees but Cliff Goudey said he does not think a policy is necessary. Doug said he would also like to develop a relationship with Bob Uhlig and have him develop a plan for the park. Cliff said the Trust would need to find a way to fund improvements to the park, which should not be done until the NRA has refined its plan for development.

12. Signage

Joe Brown said that a-frame signs and flags are being added along Somerby's Way and the boardwalk. The policy states that written permission is required for the placement of signs. He said a sign has been added without permission along the boardwalk to advertise ticket sales for the boats. Catherine Russell asked if signs placed without permission should be removed. Joyce Enderle expressed concern about the visibility of businesses. Bill Harris said that the NRA distributes signage applications through City Hall. Andy Sidford reviews the design of proposed signs. Joe Brown moved that the three boat owners on the T dock be notified that according to provision #8 of the lease, written permission would be needed for signage next year. Catherine Russell seconded the motion. The motion passed with Cliff Goudey abstaining. Doug Locy will draft a positive letter to the boat owners.

13. Fishing Boat Insurance

Doug Locy said Paul Hogg has been too busy to discuss the issues of fueling and insurance for the fishing boats. Joe Brown said the City Council has mandated insurance for the embayment. Cliff Goudey said this requirement is in a portion of the ordinance that is out of date. Joe Brown said the boats in the embayment are required to return the signed lease, pay 50% up front and provide proof of insurance. He would like to receive these items by October 15. Cliff said he would hand the documents over to Joe to handle, as he does not want to be a part of it. He believes the boats will leave. Bill Harris said the City might provide a low cost policy for the fishing boats because it is a benefit to the City to have them. This might be done in conjunction with the Harbor Commission. He said the fishermen must be in compliance but this must be done in a way that is helpful to them.

14. Boardwalk

Charlie Nichols said Paul Hogg told him there were more planks on the boardwalk that needed attention. He had the handyman fix them, but there are more planks that need to be fixed and it does not seem that handling a few at a time is working. Cliff Goudey said it might be necessary to replace the stringers. He will speak with Geordie Vining about the issue.

15. Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the Waterfront Trust will take place on Monday, September 12.

16. Adjournment

Joe Brown moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Doug Locy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.