

## **Newburyport Redevelopment Authority**

City Hall Auditorium

November 16, 2015

Minutes

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Tom Salemi called a regular meeting of the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **2. Roll Call**

In attendance were members Tom Salemi, Leslie Eckholdt, Bob Uhlig, Andy Sidford and Marion Levy. Carol Powers was also in attendance.

### **3. Parking Lot and Lighting Improvements**

The City has arranged for the holes for the light pole bases to be dug after Thanksgiving. National Grid has a work order to remove two poles. It is not yet known when this work would be done. The members discussed the possibility of the lot being without lights for a period of time. While it would be ideal for the poles to remain in place until the new fixtures have been installed, it is unlikely this would occur. Leslie Eckholdt will ask David Zinck about the possible removal of a third pole she believes is owned by the City and is on NRA property. There is a meter on this pole but no fixture.

### **4. Pop Up Park**

Leslie Eckholdt will follow up with Lisë Reid about the storage of the park furniture at the City facility on Crow Lane. The tables will remain in place but the awnings should be removed. Tom Salemi will clean up the leaves in the park. The members will discuss at a later date the possibility of adding the maintenance of the park to the Waterfront Trust landscaping contract next year. Marion Levy will contact the Boy Scouts about selling Christmas trees in the park. It has not been possible yet to schedule other winter activities for the area.

### **5. Ad Hoc Central Waterfront Committee**

Tom Salemi made a presentation on the current status and future plans of the NRA at the last meeting of the Ad Hoc Central Waterfront Committee. The Committee will explore the cost of achieving the goals of the various stakeholders at its next meeting.

### **6. New Business**

#### **Property Improvements in 2016**

The members discussed adding a pop-up park in another location on its property. A new park could possibly be located near the waterfront to the east of the embayment. Because this site would not require grading, AUL issues would be avoided. The furniture should be heavier in the location and not portable. The plans for a new pop-up will be developed over the course of the winter.

### **Float Storage**

The Harbor Commission has asked that the NRA continue to allow the floats to be stored on its property during the winter. The members expressed concern about making such a commitment when the future plans for the park have not yet been determined. They would prefer that the floats be moved to Cashman Park for storage.

### **Custom House**

The NRA received a correspondence from Attorney Lisa Mead, who has been retained by the Custom House Maritime Museum. The museum's board is concerned that the vibration from the installation of a utility corridor along the side of the Custom House would damage the structure and wishes to work together with the NRA to be a part of the project.

A recent title search revealed that a right of public access exists to the east of the Custom House. This right does not extend to the waterfront. Discussions are resuming between the City and New England Development about locating the utility corridor to the east side rather than the west side of the Custom House.

Andy Sidford moved that a letter be prepared stating the NRA must be inserted into every stage of the project. He will work with Carol Powers to draft the letter. Leslie Eckholdt seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **7. Secretary's Report**

Leslie Eckholdt requested that another member fill the role of secretary now that she is treasurer. The secretary is the keeper of the records and is responsible for filing the annual report and posting the meetings. The item will be discussed at the December meeting.

### **8. Treasurer's Report**

Leslie Eckholdt reported the balance in the money market account is \$201,830.97 and the balance in the checking account is \$4,108.12. Checks were received in October from the in the amounts of \$38,691.28 and \$250.00 respectively from the City for parking fees and Not Your Average Joe's. Withdrawals for October totaled \$6,710.48.

Andy Sidford moved to approve a payment in the amount of \$150.00 for minute taking for the November meeting; to the Waterfront Trust in the amount of \$1,974.62 for routine maintenance and hydroseeding and to National Grid in the amount of \$40.68 for one-sixth of the bill for electric service. Marion Levy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The Waterfront Trust is now paying the remainder of the National Grid bill for the lights on its property.

### **9. Minutes**

Tom Salemi moved to approve the minutes of the October 14 meeting as submitted. Leslie Eckholdt seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **10. Public Comment**

Wilbur Shenk said the Waterfront Trust has installed a temporary restroom in a corner of the west lot. The Trustees would like it to be moved to a location adjacent to the

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bathroom facility near Merrimac Street, which is on NRA land. Carol Powers asked that the NRA be named in the insurance documents to protect the group from liability.

Bob Uhlig moved to allow the Waterfront Trust to place a temporary restroom on NRA land on a limited basis after the attorney has reviewed the documents. Andy Sidford seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a four to one vote with Leslie Eckholdt voting against it.

**11. Adjournment**

Andy Sidford moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Marion Levy seconded the motion. The motion was approved.