

Newburyport Redevelopment Authority
City Council Chambers
March 8, 2017
Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Leslie Eckholdt, Bob Uhlig, Andy Sidford and Marian Levy.

3. Old Business

A. Somerby's Way

A joint project between the NRA and Waterfront Trust is being undertaken to landscape Somerby's Way. A bill for one-third of the cost of the work will be sent to the Trust. The project involves three phases: soil preparation, landscaping and maintenance. The cost to test and prepare the soil would be \$1,800. Elizabeth Petty proposed installing pachysandra in the six long beds along the brick path. The soil preparation would take place in April and the planting in May. A proposal will be made at a later date for the planting of five oval beds. Bob Uhlig said it would be desirable for the planting scheme for the oval beds to relate to that of the two large beds in the Trust parking lot due to their close proximity. Andy Sidford moved to approve the preparation of the soil and the planting of pachysandra in six rectangular beds along Somersby' Way for a cost not to exceed \$5,000. Marian Levy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Soils Testing in West Lot

ESS previously submitted a proposal for determining the location of petroleum in the soil in the west lot and assessing the risk it poses, as is required by DEP. The work will be scheduled in the next two week and must be completed by May.

C. Property Improvements

1. Site Furniture Purchases

Three Adirondack chairs have been installed along the east berm. The remaining seven chairs will be assembled and installed at a later date.

2. West Lot Park Expansion

The project to expand the berm jointly being undertaken by the NRA and the Waterfront Trust is on hold until spring.

D. Agreements and Leases

1. Custom House and NRA Irrigation System Agreement

Carol Powers is working with the Maritime Society to create a simple agreement for the installation of the irrigation system for the lawn. Bob Uhlig will speak with Geordie Vining about having the contractor make progress on the portion of the Rail Trail near Custom House

Way so it might be completed by May 20, the date on which the Maritime Society has events planned for the lawn.

E. Property Use Application

Ann Ormond described the application from the Chamber of Commerce for the use of a portion of the east parking lot for a brew fest during the Riverfront Music Festival on Saturday, September 2. No changes will be made to the way in which the event has been held in the past. Leslie Eckholdt moved to approve the application for a fee of \$500 with the condition that proof of adequate insurance is provided. Marian Levy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

F. Review of NRA Local Bank Assessments

Leslie Eckholdt compared the interest rates between TDBank and two local banks. The Institution for Savings has the most favorable rates. Andy Sidford moved to authorize Leslie Eckholdt to transfer the NRA funds from TDBank to the Institution for Savings. Marian Levy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

G. Central Waterfront Update

1. Update on Trust Document

Carol Powers received feedback from Bill Harris about the draft revisions to the Trust document. The City is still preparing its comments.

2. Dialog about the Central Waterfront

A new date for the meeting with the NRA, Mayor Holaday and the Waterfront Trust that was postponed due to the weather has not yet been determined.

4. New Business

A. Proposal for Tree Care and Removal

Cicoria Tree Service was asked to prepare a proposal for the pruning of the trees in the east lot, the removal and replacement of trees in poor condition at the entrance of the east lot and the removal of overgrown material along Custom House Way. The cost of the work would be \$5,800, with an additional \$925 for the grinding of the stumps. Some of the trees to be pruned are on Waterfront Trust property. Andy Sidford moved to approve the work and to authorize Bob Uhlig to negotiate a sharing of the cost with the Waterfront Trust. Marian Levy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

B. Lower Custom House Way Public Easement Update

The City has not yet taken action.

C. Removal of NRA Sign in East Lot

Bob Uhlig removed a redundant sign from the east lot.

D. Annual Report

Progress on the report is being made.

Newburyport Redevelopment Authority
March 8, 2017

5. Reports

A. Clerk's Report

No report.

B. Treasurer's Report

Leslie Eckholdt reported that on February 28 the balance in the checking account was \$10,348 and the balance in the money market account was \$287,806.55. Andy Sidford moved to approve the payment of invoices from Gretchen Joy in the amount of \$150 for minute taking at the March 8 meeting and from the Waterfront Trust for the NRA's portion of the park manager's salary in the amount of \$371.25. Marian Levy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Counsel's Report

No report.

6. Minutes

Leslie Eckholdt moved to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2017 meeting as submitted. Marian Levy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. Other Business

Andy Sidford said the NRA as an abutter has an interest in reviewing the plans for the Sea Level Oyster Bar, which will be moving into the restaurant space in the Firehouse.

8. Public Comment

Rob Germinara, 2 Ashland Street, talked about the expansion of the restaurant at the Firehouse, saying the City has a history of giving away public land.

9. Adjournment

Andy Sidford moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. Leslie Eckholdt seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.