

## **Minutes of the Newburyport Parks Commission**

**May 20, 2021**

*Via Zoom*

Call to order: 6:01 p.m.

A quorum was present

Meeting Recording:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/nbbuMZ\\_seiVOhogC3xL5vTXp2NsMTqNwyK04vG2Ilt6FRMNZnXA-MtyfX7L1cvHa.W328xvJffkGlwKM](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/nbbuMZ_seiVOhogC3xL5vTXp2NsMTqNwyK04vG2Ilt6FRMNZnXA-MtyfX7L1cvHa.W328xvJffkGlwKM)

In attendance: Kimberly Turner, Paul Swindlehurst, Matthew Ellsworth, Charles Griffin

Also In attendance: Lisë Reid, Michael Hennessey, Jeannine Miller, Sebastien Petersen, Nat Coughlin, Mike Paige, Alicia and Matt Tague, Caleb Barlow, Elizabeth Luekens, Dennis Palazzo, Heather Jones, Jenn Bogard, Jill Ramsdell, William Franz

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

#### *March 18, 2021 Minutes*

Commissioner Turner noted that the spelling of “Kousa dogwood” should be corrected from “Cousa” to “Kousa.”

**Motion to approve March 18, 2021 minutes with edits as noted by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. Roll call vote, 4Y.**

#### *April 5, 2021 Minutes*

**Motion to approve April 5, 2021 minutes without changes by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Turner. Roll call vote, 4Y.**

#### *April 12, 2021 Minutes*

Commissioner Turner suggested amending Commissioner Ellsworth’s motion to read, “Motion to remove the trees if deemed necessary by Jon-Eric White contingent that the revised plan made sense.”

**Motion to approve April 12, 2021 minutes with edits as noted above by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Turner. Roll call vote, 4Y.**

#### *May 6, 2021 Minutes*

**Motion to approve May 6, 2021 minutes without changes by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. Roll call vote, 4Y.**

*Approval of New Bench Locations at Perkins Park and Clipper City Rail Trail*

Commissioners reviewed a proposal by Director Reid to install a bench with arms and a back that matches the style of the existing picnic table by the basketball court.

**Motion to approve new bench installation at Perkins Park as presented by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. Roll call vote, 4Y.**

Commissioners reviewed a proposal by Jeannine Miller to install a granite bench with 1" x 3" plaque near the intersection of the High Street spur pathway and main trail path, on the same side as the locomotive.

**Motion to approve new bench installation with plaque on Clipper City Rai Trail as presented by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. Roll call vote, 4Y.**

*Sanction March's Hill walking-biking trails*

Commissioner Turner and Director Reid presented a summary of efforts to work with local youth and their families to reclaim and improve existing biking trails at March's Hill. Director Reid presented a map of existing trails. Commissioner Turner also noted that they had emphasized to trail users the need to coordinate with the Parks Department and not to make any permanent changes to vegetation or parks property without seeking permission from the Parks Commission.

Commissioner Swindlehurst recommended that there be some sort of informal written understanding of what's allowable in terms of use of the space.

**Motion to approve map as shown with trails that are on Parks Commission property as they exist with Parks Department overseeing work to restore trails to conditions as witnessed during site visit two weeks ago; no other trails can be made without the explicit consent of the Parks Commission; any further changes to trees, filling or digging holes would have to be approved by the Parks Commission; and this is a revocable privilege in which youth and other trail users partner with the Parks Department to create a healthy ecosystem on site by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. Roll call vote, 4Y.**

*Acceptance of Wolfhound Sculpture donation from Jeffrey Briggs*

Commissioners consider accepting a donation of the Wolfhound Sculpture by Jeffrey Briggs with installation at Moseley Woods being carried out by the Parks Department.

**Motion to accept the sculpture pending location and mounting when it's decided and appropriate by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. Roll call vote, 4Y.**

*Moving Wall at Bartlet Mall Appeal*

Dennis Palazzo withdrew his application to install the Moving Wall memorial at Bartlet Mall.

*StoryWalk Proposal*

Commissioners viewed a presentation by Jennifer Bogard for a StoryWalk, which incorporates permanently mounted pages from a book which can be read as the reader progresses along the trail. Ms. Bogard stated that she would be responsible for installation and maintenance of this amenity.

**Motion to approve StoryWalk at Moseley Woods pending site walk to determine exact locations of posts by Commissioner Swindlehurst, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. Roll call vote, 4Y.**

*YHC Chalk drawing on Rail Trail*

**Motion to allow the Yankee Homecoming Committee to coordinate temporary chalk drawings on the Clipper City Rail Trail near March's Hill as depicted in the drawing presented on July 31, 2021 with a raindate of August 7, 2021 by Commissioner Swindlehurst, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. Roll call vote, 4Y.**

*Lantern Festival Permit, Sept 5*

**Motion to approve Lantern Festival at Bartlet Mall on a tentative date of September 5, 2021 based on both COVID numbers and potential construction with a raindate of September 6, 2021 by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. Roll call vote, 4Y.**

*Scattering of cremation ashes on Rail Trail, Marilyn Cohodas &  
Installation of related memorial plaque on Rail Trail*

Director Reid presents request to scatter memorial ashes and place a memorial plaque on the Rail Trail in the Washington Street gateway area.

**Motion to not take any action on the scattering of ashes in Newburyport Parks by Commissioner Swindlehurst, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. Roll call vote, 4Y.**

**Motion to maintain current practice of recognizing individuals in our parks only by participating in existing memorial programs such as the sponsorship of a bench, tree or brick by Commissioner Swindlehurst, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. Roll call vote, 4Y.**

*New Support-a-Spot garden at the CCRT Osprey Sculpture*

Director Reid presented plans including addition of a garden as proposed by volunteers from The Village and new benches in the vicinity of the waterfront stretch of Clipper City Rail Trail 2 near the Osprey Sculpture.

**Motion to approve installation of two gardens and additional benches as shown on the plan by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. Roll call vote, 4Y.**

*Master Plan review of Cornelius Doyle*

Commissioner Turner presented a master plan sketch for Cornelius Doyle Triangle with changes that include augmenting the hedge along the residential property line and coordinating with the Tree Commission to transplant two more canopy trees from adjacent vacant property to Cornelius Doyle Triangle to provide shade to benches.

**Motion to approve adding two trees as shown on the plan by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. Roll call vote, 4Y.**

Adjourned 7:44 p.m.