

**Minutes of the Newburyport Parks Commission  
October 21, 2021**

*Senior Community Center Board Room, Newburyport, Massachusetts*

Call to order: 6:08 p.m.  
A quorum was present

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

Also In attendance: Lisë Reid, Michael Hennessey, Geordie Vining, Walt Thompson, Art Carrier, Ted Boretti (See sign in sheet)

**Minutes**

**Motion to approve the September meeting minutes by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

**Motion to take the agenda out of order by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Swindlehurst. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

**NEW AND OLD BUSINESS**

*Public Art Installation and Landscaping Improvements to Clipper City Rail Trail (CCRT) 1*

**Motion to approve plan as described by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Swindlehurst. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

*Sign Installation at Butterfly Garden*

**Motion to approve the butterfly garden sign as presented with the location being determined by Mike Hennessey by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

*Public Art COVID Memorial on CCRT2 at Joppa*

Geordie Vining presented the proposed COVID memorial. Commissioner Swindlehurst suggested a permanent display that retells the background that prompted this memorial. Commissioners suggested the date of 2020 be engraved on the memorial as it was the year the pandemic first impacted Newburyport. A resident suggested making the fish a local fish such as striper. **Motion to approve the COVID Memorial at the intersection of Clipper City Rail Trail and Joppa Park by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

*Permission to access 30 Winter Street via Clipper City Rail Trail*

**Motion to approve access per Parks Department's standard License to Enter and Use Real Property to remove fence to allow placement of dumpster on public property for 60 day**

**period with a \$2,500 retainage fee paid to City to be relinquished upon satisfactory determination by inspection that Parks Department property has been restored to original or better condition by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

*New Bench at Bartlet Mall*

**Motion to approve installation of new bench between existing bench and existing picnic table adjacent to Pond Street overlooking Frog Pond by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Swindlehurst. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

*Motorized vehicles on Rail Trail, Modify Rule to allow wheelchairs, etc.*

There was a resident comment in favor of e-bikes, saying it's helpful for older users by making the bike easier to use and commenting that e-bike speed is not necessarily high.

**Motion to continue to not allow motorized vehicles with the exception of wheelchairs and authorized vehicles by Commissioner Swindlehurst, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

*Speed on Clipper City Rail Trail*

The item was tabled.

*Geocache at Moseley Woods*

**Motion to approve geocache at Moseley Woods by Commissioner Swindlehurst, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

*Don't Feed the Ducks Signage*

**Motion to approve spray painting "Don't Feed The Ducks" signage on Riverwalk by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

Commissioner Swindlehurst also suggested "Welcome to Cashman" signage that includes all rules and this information.

*Dog Treat Ice Cream Bike Peddler's License for Rail Trail*

Jennifer Allard applied to operate her dog treat ice cream bike sales on the Clipper City Rail Trail and other parks. She explained that she does not have to use the E-Assist feature, that the bike is not motorized and can use the bike manually. Commissioners Turner and Swindlehurst expressed uncertainty about allowing commercial sales on park property. Commissioners stated that Allard can use parks property for access. Allard decided to withdraw her application to run her business on park property.

**Motion to allow Hope Garden**

Commissioners tabled the item pending a proposal that includes a drawing of a more detailed plan for the garden.

*Amendment to Christmas Market application*

**Motion to allow the amend to the Christmas Market application to allow a train car to placed on the Bartlet Mall High Street promenade by Commissioner Swindlehurst, seconded by Commissioner Griffin. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

*Walkways at Bartlet Mall, reconsider Flexipave-type paving*

**Motion to use flexible paving on upper level sidewalks adjacent to Pond, Greenleaf and Auburn Streets by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.** Commissioner Griffin asked that the walkway be as wide as possible along Pond Street.

**Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Griffin, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

*Adjourned*

*8:18 p.m.*

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JANUARY • FEBRUARY • MARCH • APRIL • MAY • JUNE • JULY • AUGUST • SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER • NOVEMBER • DECEMBER  
 MONDAY • TUESDAY • WEDNESDAY • THURSDAY • FRIDAY • SATURDAY • SUNDAY

SIGN-IN 10-21-21 PARKS COMMISSION

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