

**Minutes of the Newburyport Parks Commission
October 18, 2018**

Senior Community Center Computer Lab

Call to order: 6:20 p.m.

A quorum was present

In attendance: Kim Turner, Ann Lagasse, Karen Popken, Matthew Ellsworth

Also In attendance: Lisë Reid, Michael Hennessey, Jennie Donohue, Christine Wallace, Judy Tymon, Councilor Heather Shand, Councilor Charles Tontar, Blake Wilcox

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to accept a late file for Placement of Sea Container on Rail Trail by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Turner. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

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

Naming of ball field at Perkins Park

Motion to approve naming of ball field at Perkins Park "Sean Perkins Ball Field" pending formalized plans by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Popken. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Update on moving Parks Department Activities from Atkinson Common

Director Reid gave an update on the effort to move the department's center of operations from Atkinson Common to another site, saying they have identified a location and expect to be moving within a month, according to Mayor Holaday's wishes. Director Reid did caution that the timeframe was subject to change but efforts were being made to move quickly. Residents Judy Tymon and Christine Wallace expressed concerns about trucks using the connector pathway between Lower and Upper Atkinson Common and about brush piles at the back of the park.

Addition of Fence at Moseley Woods Barn

Motion to allow erection of a fence and carport adjacent to the barn at Moseley Woods by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Popken. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Addition of Accessible Swings in Playgrounds

Commissioners discussed a proposal to add more accessible swings to playgrounds. Commission on Disabilities Chair Jennie Donohue expressed a preference for a variety of weight capacities at all parks and would like to see two at each playground with thoughtful placement and signage protecting against misuse of swings. Parks identified as top priority to receive new swings include:

1. Cashman

2. Perkins
3. Moseley
4. Bartlet Mall
5. Woodman
6. Jason Sawyer Playground

Motion to purchase and install accessible swings beginning at Cashman and working outwards by Commissioner Popken, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Bartlet Mall Auburn Street Walkway & Recreational Space (playground & basketball court) proposal & Bartlet Mall Winter Parking

Commissioner Turner presented a proposal to complete 19th century construction at Bartlet Mall including reconfiguration of Auburn and High Street corner of park. The project would include installing a wide, accessible pathway from Auburn Street into the park to replace existing stairs. Developer Blake Wilcox presented his corresponding plan to donate reconstruction-reconfiguration of the basketball court as a public benefit component of permitting a new residential project. A proposal was made in support of Mr. Wilcox's project to disallow winter time parking within the park once the new court is complete.

Motion to prohibit parking within Bartlet Mall park contingent on City Council approval starting November 2019 by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion to approve construction-reconfiguration of Auburn and High Street corner of Bartlet Mall according to Charles Eliot's original plan by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Popken. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Bartlet Mall Historic Plan approval

Motion to approve the greater Historic Restoration Plan at Bartlet Mall by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Popken. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Bartlet Mall – George Washington Statue plantings

Motion to approve Parks Department planting plan for area surrounding George Washington statue by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Turner. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Removal of trees at Atwood Park

Motion to approve removal of two Norway maples at Atwood Park contingent on approval by neighbor abutting project area by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Removal of Tree at Perkins Park , next to #9 Beacon Avenue

Item tabled.

Little Free Library on CCRT Phase II

Commissioners considered a proposal to place a Little Free Library on the Clipper City Rail Trail at March's Hill. **Motion to approve placement of a Little Free Library on the Clipper City Rail Trail at March's Hill at the bottom of the ramp near the existing bench or bike racks by Commissioner Ellsworth, seconded by Commissioner Turner. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

Butterfly Garden sign on CCRT Phase II

Motion to approve placement of a “Monarch Waystation” sign on Clipper City Rail Trail by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Atwood Park –Dog Waste Issues

Commissioners discussed a resident request to ban dogs at Atwood Park. Commissioners expressed hesitancy to ban access to open space in a congested area and recommended increased enforcement of off leash and dog waste laws.

Review of Parks-wide Fee Schedule

Commissioners discussed the proposed parks fee schedule. The item was tabled until a future meeting.

Sea Container on Rail Trail

Motion to approve placement of a sea container for storage of ice melter on Clipper City Rail Trail until end of calendar year by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Banning of Glycophosphate

Commissioner Turner asked that “Banning of Glycophosphate” be placed on a future Parks Commission agenda and that research be done on alternatives to using glycophosphate products.

Adjourned 8:50 p.m.

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