

**Newburyport Redevelopment Authority**  
Newburyport Public Library  
April 4, 2012  
Minutes

**1. Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair James Shanley.

**2. Roll Call**

In attendance were members James Shanley, Patty Dorfman and Tom Salemi. John Morris arrived later in the meeting.

**3. Reading of Mission Statement**

Patty Dorfman read the mission statement.

**4. Public Comment**

None

**5. Minutes**

Patty Dorfman moved to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2012, meeting as submitted. Tom Salemi seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**6. Newburyport High School Students Civics Project**

A student from Newburyport High School who is involved in a project about the development of the waterfront attended the meeting and asked questions about the process. James Shanley explained the NRA is engaged in a pre-development program with Mass Development and will be seeking requests for proposals. The issues being considered include parking, Chapter 91 requirements and legal obligations. It is intended that the development would support the expansion of the park. A hotel is not being planned as a part of the development. The Mayor and the NRA have a shared vision for the development, making this the right time to proceed with the project.

**7. Treasurer's Report**

Patty Dorfman moved to approve a payment to National Grid in the amount of \$431.83. Tom Salemi seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

ND Landscape, Inc. submitted its proposal for an annual landscaping contract. The amount for the services would be \$4,804.22, which is the same as was charged last year. Patty Dorfman moved to continuing working with ND Landscape. Tom Salemi seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Patty Dorfman moved to approve a payment to Barry Abramson in the amount of \$1,550 for work through the March 26 meeting with Mass Development. Tom Salemi seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Patty Dorfman moved to approve a payment for minute taking for the March 21 and April 4 meetings. John Morris seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

A check was received from Mass Development in the amount of \$35,483.02 to reimburse the NRA for the DEP Tier II work performed by Weston and Sampson.

#### **8. Mass Development Update**

James Shanley said he, Tom Salemi, Geordie Vining, Andy Port, Mayor Holaday, Barry Abramson, Donald Powers of Union Studios, Jamie Faye of Fort Point Associates and Richard Henderson and Ed Starzec from Mass Development met in Boston on March 26. The topics discussed included the scope of work, the time line for the work, parking issues and the reasons past proposals were not successful. The first public hearing might take place on the waterfront near the end of May. The date will be set at the next meeting with Mass Development.

#### **9. Custom House Update**

James Shanley explained to the audience that the NRA owns the Custom House and there is much must be done to preserve the structure. He will speak in favor of the Maritime Society's application for funding for the work at the Community Preservation Committee's April 10 meeting. A letter of intent was written stating the NRA would ratify the existing preservation on the structure if funding were received from the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

#### **10. New Business**

##### **• NRA Blog**

Tom Salemi said he would like to create a blog to keep the public up to date on the work of the NRA. The public would not be able to post comments on the blog because the NRA members would like all dialogue to place in its meetings.

##### **• Chamber of Commerce Breakfast**

James Shanley said he would like the NRA to host a Chamber of Commerce breakfast on Thursday, June 7. He said no information would be presented at the breakfast that has not already been shared with the public. The cost to host the event would be \$375. NRA members would share in the presentation of the information provided in Barry Abramson's report.

#### **11. Upcoming Meetings**

The next meeting of the NRA is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on April 18 at the Newburyport Public Library.

#### **12. Adjournment**

John Morris moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40. Patty Dorfman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.