

Newburyport Redevelopment Authority
Newburyport Public Library
February 29, 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 Adam Guild.

3. Reading of Mission Statement

Patty Dorfman read the mission statement.

4. Public Comment

Ann Ormond of the Greater Newburyport Chamber of Commerce said she is looking forward to working in conjunction with the NRA to move the economic development of the city forward.

5. Minutes

Patty Dorfman moved to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2012, meeting as submitted. Adam Guild seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

At the February 15 meeting members voted to approve an invoice from Deluxe for business checks in the amount of \$178.52. It was noted that the invoice had erroneously been paid on January 13 prior to approval. The actual amount paid was \$148.52.

6. Treasurer's Report

Adam Guild reported that the current balance in the money market account is \$130,694.32 and the balance in the checking account is \$10,010.54.

Adam Guild moved to approve a payment to National Grid in the amount of \$222.23. Patty Dorfman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. Custom House Update

Michael Mroz reported on upcoming the activities of the Maritime Society. The museum will be open on weekends beginning in March and full time beginning in May. There are as many as five exhibits scheduled and many new activities are planned. James Shanley said the NRA is happy with the direction the Custom House Maritime Museum is taking.

Groups may use the museum or the grassy area behind it for weddings or other functions. An application has been received for a July 28 wedding. Mr. Mroz said he would like a convenient process to be established for the approval for these applications. Patty Dorfman said the Maritime Society should maintain the calendar and notify the NRA of any events. The Coast Guard City proclamation ceremony is scheduled for the lawn on August 4.

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The NRA should be incorporated into the Maritime Society's insurance policy. The current policy is for \$1million for each occurrence with a general aggregate of \$2 million. Patty Dorfman said she would contact Carol Powers about the insurance, as she believes Ms. Powers recommended a \$3 million policy.

Patty Dorfman asked if the rent charged for events should be greater. Mr. Mroz said the Maritime Society is at a competitive disadvantage, as the Custom House does not offer an opportunity for in-house catering.

James Shanley asked about the annual rent of \$1 for the Custom House that the Maritime Society is to pay the NRA. Mr. Mroz said he has a receipt showing that the 99 years of rent have been paid in full.

Greg Colling discussed the work that is planned for the Custom House. Work to restore the observatory began in the fall and currently the chimney is being repaired. There are plans to cut and re-point the Water Street façade and to remove the ferrous metal and the rust stains it has caused. The Maritime Society is applying for CPA funding and would like the work to take place in the summer and fall.

8. Mass Development Update

James Shanley said the revised MOU has not yet been received.

9. Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the NRA is scheduled for Thursday, March 8. Subsequent meetings are scheduled for March 21, April 4 and April 18.

10. Adjournment

Patty Dorfman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35. Adam Guild seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.