Bartlet Mall Commission Meeting

Date: October 9, 2014

Time: 6:00-7:00

Location: Newburyport Public Library

Attending: Andrea Eigerman, Ellen Hanick, Andrew Simpson, Walt Thompson, Lise Reid (Parks Director, City of Newburyport), and Karen Johnson and Jeff Briggs (members of the public)

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Review/Approval of minutes
3. Financial Report
4. Big Dog Show
5. City Hall/Park Director’s Report (including park physical condition/maintenance update, frog pond remediation, etc.)
6. Bartlet Mall events
7. Open Discussion
8. Adjourn

Notes

1. Call to order

2. Review/Approval of minutes of last meeting

Minutes from last meeting approved

3. Financial Report

Ellen and Lise provided a financial report. There is $4,590 in the Bartlet Mall Operating Budget, with approximately $1,545 unencumbered at this point. The Parks Donation Revolving Account has $8,728.61. $5,267 of this money will be paid to Horsley Whitten for the first frog pond remediation document. Approximately $2,185.41 of the $8,728.61 is from the Big Dog Show. We now have a list of all donors to the Dog Show. From all sources, there is $14,215, with approximately $5,300 unencumbered. Lise also explained that a Conservancy Parks donation can only be used for parks and does not disappear at the end of the year. These monies are paid according to the donor’s wishes.

4. City Hall/Park Director‘s Report.

**Dog Show Discussion**. With Lise present, the Commission members discussed whether the money earned from the Dog Show should be used to purchase an eight-foot-tall dog statue from Dale Rogers, versus the “free” six-foot-tall statue promised to us from Dale’s studio. Also, members discussed a possible location for the statue, whether six or eight feet tall. Jeff Briggs, a local artist and interest member of the public, noted that a six-foot-tall statue might be best in a more intimate space, while an eight-foot-tall statue would be considered a “field” piece. Lise noted that to place a statue at most parks, a City Council action would not be required. However, if the location chosen is near an intersection, such as the one near Famous Pizza and Atkinson Common at High Street, a City Council action might be required and some preparation for its placement. Locations discussed included this “Five Corners” Intersection, March’s Hill, Cashman Park, and other small spaces near intersections. Ellen also stated the idea of selling the dog to use as seed money for future fundraisers for Bartlet Mall. Ultimately, Commission members determined that the “free” six-foot-tall dog should be accepted, rather than purchasing a larger statue. The members did not agree on a recommendation for the statue’s location at this meeting (the Mayor would ultimately decide its location).

**Park Physical Condition/Maintenance Update**

Lise is still working on getting the concrete slabs and bolts removed from the park. We are still waiting on insurance money to replace the flagpole, but Walt has secured an additional $2,500 donation to replace the pole. A bench will be taken from the Inn Street project in the spring to replace the one stolen from the Mall. The Bartlet Mall signs should be installed within a few weeks.

**Frog Pond Remediation.** Horsley Whitten was granted an extension for their first report until late October. This report will review all data generated to date and provide a draft sediment management plan. Horsley Whitten has also begun to investigate other funding sources. They have found that many of the water quality funding sources are not applicable to the Frog Pond, because the water quality and its area of impact are not as great as other projects seeking similar funds.

**Fountain.** A long discussion of the fountain and the possible need for its rehabilitation was discussed. Jeff Briggs was extremely helpful in giving us information on the fountain, as he was involved in the most recent rehabilitation in 1993. Walt noted that rehabilitation of the fountain might come to $91,000 (sourced from Robertson Iron), but that it could cost approximately $182,000 to replace. We discussed that we need an impartial expert to determine what needs to be done with the fountain. Lise will try to get the expert hired for the Inn Street fountain to examine the Bartlet Mall fountain, as well. Jeff noted that the fountain should be painted every three years. We all agreed that we should restore the fountain at the same time that water quality remediation in the pond takes place.

6. Bartlet Mall Events

A scavenger hunt will occur at the Mall on October 18th.

7. Open Discussion

Ellen noted the need to scan a variety of documents in the Commission’s hands, to ensure the next Commissioners may have use of them. Walt noted the need to request applications for additional Commission members.

Adjourn

**Next Meeting**

Tuesday, December 2, 2014

6:00 PM

Newburyport Public Library