

Minutes of the Newburyport Parks Commission 19 June 2014

Call to order at 7:11 p.m.

A quorum was present.

In attendance: Bob Uhlig, Karen Popken, Kim Turner, Ann Lagasse, (Steve?)

Also in attendance: Lisë Reid, Dino Pantelis, Charlie Tontar,

NEW BUSINESS

Issues

Pioneer Diamond Dreams Project Update

Dino Pantelis presented an update on Diamond Dreams project. He reported the Pioneer League has put in \$300,000 into fields alone, irrigation, infields, dugouts, and fencing. Beginning in spring 2009, they completed one field a year through spring 2011

Fundraising has been halted. The plan was to create off street parking increasing safety in the area. He said there once was a fourth field, but now it's just a practice field. They reduced use, for less congestion. The next planned phase is to create off street parking.

Mr. Pantelis said the original plan called for the clubhouse to be moved to the center of the park. But the group has since determined that its functionality requires that it be located closer to Merrimac Street. He added that the basketball court is used every night.

The project was originally budgeted at 1.5 million. They were able to reduce the cost of field work from \$550,000 to \$300,000 with in-kind work. Mr. Pantelis said that future phases will require coordination with the city and neighbors. He said the Diamond Dreams committee plans to engage an architect to look at the plan to renovate and relocate the club house along Merrimac St, create two off street parking areas, with the club house in potentially in the center, including a dropoff rotunda where kids can be safely dropped off. He said they are considering a parking area behind Founders Field and acknowledged that area abuts wetlands. When they first looked into this option, the cost of wetlands permitting was more than the cost of the stone so they are waiting on that parking area.

Mr. Pantelis re-iterated that the committee will continue to coordinate with city Parks Commission before undertaking any work at the fields.

He said they currently have \$150,000 committed for next funding drive and are aiming for another \$150,000, possibly from CPA, Mass Development, etc. They welcome suggestions for funding sources. He reported that \$30,000 of players fees are put toward maintaining the city park annually.

Lisë Reid clarified where Founders parking is and noted that Community Action uses the playground regularly.

Commissioner Popken asked about location of the playground. There was a discussion about locating it more centrally but keeping it accessible to Community Action.

Commissioner Lagasse asked about how parking would fit into the Merrimac Street area. Mr. Pantelis confirms there would be a sidewalk along Merrimac Street. There was also a discussion about removing a stand of pines near connector drive to upper Atkinson would allow for moving the basketball court further back and maintaining a practice field. He emphasized the need to maintain and access way to all active spaces.

Councilor Tontar asked how many cars they need to accommodate. He expressed neighbors' frustration with the current situation. He concerned about project delays given fundraising needs, etc. He asked if there is an interim solution by using the side lot for some relief. Lisë Reid said she would talk with the city's conservation agent about permitting requirements there. Informal estimates project the side lot can accommodate 36 vehicles.

An neighbor whose property abuts the west side of the park asked how the grand plan will affect him. He expressed a concern with the parking entrance being right next to his driveway. He added that the culvert is no longer functioning. He did add that parking has been a lot better this year compared with last year. He complained about the removal of a vegetative barrier at the property line. Commissioner Uhlig says removal of vegetative barrier was a necessary maintenance effort approved by the Parks Commission.

Councilor Tontar suggested a meeting with abutters and park neighbors would be useful during design. Mr. Pantelis said park re-design has succeeded in reducing usage and therefore traffic volume.

Joppa Park Improvements

Mike Hennessey of Hennessey Landscape Services, Inc. talked about taking on maintenance at Joppa on a volunteer basis, and the work and materials he has donated. Managers that work with him would like to do more to make the park look good including:

1. Irrigation system improvement, would run right along rose bed with spray heads pointing toward water;
2. Discussion about improvements to lawn

Motion to approve payment for installation of backflow and addition of granite post façade for bubbler pipe and to accept donation of irrigation improvements at Joppa by Commissioner Lagasse, seconded by Commissioner Uhlig. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Hennessey gave an update about the volunteer work he has been doing at Atwood Park with a volunteer team from Opportunity Works saying there are great friendships being made and great work being done. He says they are shifting their efforts from Atwood to Joppa.

He reported that prison crews edged the beds at Joppa, with agresoil from the city. He would like to get more landscapers involved in the commission's Landscape Partnership program and suggests promoting it more in winter time.

Mike talks about a water audit. He suggested installing an additional meter at Atkinson Common to differentiate landscaping water from lily pond usage. He disagrees with the Water Department's estimate of \$3,000 to install an additional meter. He is concerned the irrigation system there is way overused.

He confirmed that Perkins irrigation is on three days a week. He said there is a need to make sure all sites have working rain sensors on their irrigation systems. Commissioner Uhlig suggested a water audit across the board in city parks. He asked Lisë Reid to talk with the Water Department about sharing that cost.

270 Water Street

Kim Turner presented a plan with raised bed community garden plots, and a number of shade structures. Lisë Reid will talk with National Grid about using the park for community gardens and installation of shade structures.

Central Garden at Joppa

The commission advised no action should be taken on the central garden until bench and signage installation are ready to begin. Opportunity Works will maintain the area for now. Do trial for permeable paving. Mike will email samples re: permeable pavers. Mike will come up with estimates for permeable paving, bubbler, inkberry removal, replacement of inkberries with something else, a water audit, and care of roses at the condos.

Motion to approve May 2014 meeting minutes by Commissioner Lagasse, seconded by Commissioner Turner. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Other Business

Commissioner Uhlig asked that the Bartlet Mall caretaker rake out the pile of stone dust that plows had piled up on the promenade near the courthouse.

Dog Waste Receptacle at Brown Square

In response to a Board of Health request to have a dog waste container added to the pet waste management contract to be installed at Brown Square, the commission said they would take it under advisement. They suggested waiting to see what happens now that trash can is back.

Off-leash Fencing at Cashman

Lisë Reid presented an estimate for installation of the proposed guard-rail type fencing between the off leash area and the river side walk way. Commissioner Lagasse did not believe the proposed guard-rail

type fencing would be effective in containing dogs. Commissioners agreed it seemed like a lot of money for a questionable solution. There was discussion about effective fencing interfering with sight lines to the river, being unattractive and there being neighbor opposition to it. The issue was tabled.

Cushing Park Update

Commissioners reviewed the proposal to transfer the parking lot area to Parks Commission jurisdiction and to close the park to traffic during the summer. They considered to where the book bins could be moved. A suggestion of the Brown School was made.

Review Status Current Projects

Joppa Park

Commissioners opted for no arms to be installed on the new benches.



82 Haverhill Road
978-388-1415 Voice

WWW.ATLANTICCOASTFENCE.COM

Amesbury, MA 01913
978-388-9599 Fax

June 17, 2014

Newburyport Parks Commission
City of Newburyport
P.O. Box 550
60 Pleasant Street
Newburyport, MA 01950
Attn: Lisë Reid

RE: Pressure Treated Guard Rail at Cashman Dog Park and Pop Crowley Way

Hello Lisë:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you a quote for some new pressure treated guard rail at the Cashman Park Dog Park and along Pop Crowley Way.

You requested proposals for new guard rail at Cashman Dog Park and the removal and replacement of the steel guard rail along Pop Crowley Way. You suggested that we use the same materials as previously installed on Sally Snyder Way which was a 6x8 beveled top PT posts with a 4x8 rail. I also priced out the upgraded 8x8 beveled top PT posts with a 4x10 rail like we previously installed at the end of Pop Crowley way at the parking area so you could decide if you want to match the existing already installed near the project. I also will be providing pricing with two different post spacings either 6' o.c. or 8' o.c. Here are the pricing break downs:

Cashman Dog Park: 178 lf of guard rail requested

6x8 posts with 4x8 rails
6' o.c. **\$4,844.00** 8' o.c. **\$3,980.00**

8x8 posts with 4x10 rails
6' o.c. **\$4,998.00** 8' o.c. **\$4,127.00**

Pop Crowley Way: 314 lf of guard rail required

6x8 posts with 4x8 rails
6' o.c. **\$8,544.00** 8' o.c. **\$7,021.00**

8x8 posts with 4x10 rails
6' o.c. **\$8,817.00** 8' o.c. **\$7,280.00**

Plus **\$600.00** for the removal and disposal of the old steel guard rail.

RESIDENTIAL - COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL

CUSTOM WOOD - VINYL - CHAIN LINK - ORNAMENTAL ALUMINUM AND STEEL



82 Haverhill Road
978-388-1415 Voice

WWW.ATLANTICCOASTFENCE.COM

Amesbury, MA 01913
978-388-9599 Fax

All prices are based on work to be done in 2014 and based open shop wage rates. No Massachusetts sales tax has been included in the quote. Any permitting fees or the encountering of ledge, concrete or other solid obstructions in fence holes, clearing and or grubbing of the fence line along with winter work would incur an additional cost unless noted above.

Atlantic Coast Fence is not responsible for and had not included any charge for any grounding of fencing that may be required or specified and this should be done by a licensed electrician. Property owner or general contractor is responsible for establishing property lines or providing a marked survey of the property along with establishing any grade points prior to start of installation. If required the property owner or general contractor is responsible to provide and pay for any police details or flaggers.

Atlantic Coast Fence is not responsible for any underground utilities public or private; known or unknown that has not been properly marked or mark has not been maintained during the fence installation. This includes any marked or unmarked utilities that have not been installed to proper depths or codes for installation or does not have warning tape placed when required.

Materials used in this quote are not to be subject to any specific requirement that prevents purchase from any particular manufacturer, wholesaler or distributor based on its origins, i.e. "Buy America" or "Buy American" acts. If requested in the bid documents any engineering certifications that are required for design or performance specifications are the responsibility of the general contractor and are to be obtain and presented to us before any materials are ordered or work performed. All prices are good for 30 days and subject to change or be withdrawn after that time.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to ask. I look forward to working together.

Sincerely,

Ted Triandafilou, III P.A.
Sales and Marketing Manager
Massachusetts Registered Architect