

## **Minutes of the Newburyport Parks Commission 7 August 2014**

Call to order at 7:30 p.m.

A quorum was present.

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

Also in attendance: Lisë Reid

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### ***Issues***

##### *Donation of Outdoor Fitness Equipment*

Commissioner Turner said she would visit the Rail Trail and look for potential locations where the fitness equipment could be installed.

##### *Cushing Park Update*

Commissioners advised taking no action on Cushing project until order is passed transferring jurisdiction from City Council to Parks Commission.

##### *Netting at Cashman Right Field*

Commissioner Uhlig said he would look at Cashman Ball Field netting on site before approving spending \$9,995 on new netting to protect the river side walkway.

##### *Landscape Plans: Joppa Lawn, Central Garden, 270 Water St.*

Commissioners approved Hennessey Landscape Services work at the Joppa central garden. They asked Lisë Reid to get a written confirmation of available funding from the Wollop-Breaux program for boat ramp improvements at Joppa Park.

##### *Use of Tennis Courts for Non-Tennis Activities (NYS Programs, Damage To Courts?)*

In response to a complaint by a resident, commissioners advised to confirm that children's activities are not damaging the courts, and if they are not, they should be allowed to use them for tennis or non-tennis activities but to defer to tennis players if children are not using the courts to play tennis.

##### *Our Common Backyards Grant Award Acceptance - Inn Street Improvements*

Commissioners signed a grant award of \$200,000 from the state Common Backyards grant program on the condition that the commission has direct input into design of park and fountain.

### *Cashman Signage Complaint*

A complaint about residents feeding the birds with a request to install signage at Cashman similar to “Do not feed wildlife” signage on central Waterfront was taken under advisement.

### *Parks Commission Structure*

There was a discussion about restructuring of the Parks Commission to include more members. Parks Commissioners advised the Parks Director to take scheduling of the Moseley Woods Pavilion under her purview in order to streamline the process.

### *Rail Trail Bike Safety Signage*

Regarding a request to install signage regarding bike safety on the Rail Trail the commission recommended public education efforts instead.

### *Morrill Grant Recommendations*

The following applications were reviewed and funding recommendations were made by commissioners as listed in column titled “Amount Recommended.”

**Summary of Applications to the  
Mayor Gayden W. Morrill Charitable Foundation for 2015**

<b>Requestor</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Amount Recommended</b>	<b>Project Description</b>
Maudslay State Park Association	\$ 50,000.00		Pond Cleanup
Newburyport Art Association	\$ 75,000.00		Creation of sculpture garden
Newburyport Planning Office	\$ 5-10,000		Outdoor gardens, bocce court, & other amenities for Senior Community Center
Parks Commission	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	Atwood Park Improvement Project
Parks Commission	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	Cushing Park Beautification Project
Parks Commission	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	Joppa Park Improvement Project
<b>TOTAL REQUESTED</b>	<b>\$ 210,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 85,000.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE</b>	<b>\$ 85,000.00</b>	<b>\$85,000.00</b>	

Adjourned 9:25