

## Minutes of the Newburyport Parks Commission 21 May 2015

Call to order at 7:03 p.m.

A quorum was present.

In attendance: Steve Sawyer, Kim Turner, Karen Popken

Also in attendance: Lisë Reid, Dick Monahan, Rob Rothberg, Elizabeth Petty, other residents (see attached sign-in sheet)

### Review of meeting minutes

Commissioners reviewed March 2015 minutes. **Motion to approve by Commissioner Sawyer, seconded by Commissioner Popken. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Issues

##### *Landscape design on Clipper City Rail Trail*

Commissioners listened to a presentation by Elizabeth Petty who recommended a unified planting plan for the Clipper City Rail Trail and other public spaces that uses drought resistant and native plantings.

##### *Atwood Park Improvement Project*

Director Reid presented an update of Atwood Park Improvement Project status. She gave a report of feedback she received via phone, email and in person, stating 13 residents were strongly in favor of reconstructing the former tennis court as a tennis court, two were indifferent, four wanted a pickle ball court and one was against tennis at Atwood Park. Commissioners recommended further surveying of residents to confirm what they want at the park before making a decision to reconstruct the tennis court. All three commissioners were strongly against re-allocation of Morrill funding from the Cushing project to Atwood Park.

##### *Changes to Off Leash Ordinance*

Commissioners advised Director Reid to purchase updated signage using the following guidelines for depicting the off leash area at Cashman: the lawn at the southeast end of the park bounded by Riverfront Road, Pop Crowley Way, the tennis and basketball courts, and the harbor walk; and a strip of land between the Merrimac River and the harbor walk extending from the tennis courts to the Riverfront Road cul-de-sac.

A discussion of changes to the ordinance itself was continued to a future meeting.

## PARKS DIRECTOR UPDATES

### Current Projects

#### *Towle Barn Building Update*

**Motion to recommend construction of a four-season, two-story structure at Cashman Park as a permitting requirement for the Towle property housing development, by Commissioner Sawyer, seconded by Commissioner Turner. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

### Permitting

#### *Golf in the Parks*

**Motion to approve Averill Haines's application to teach golf in the parks with the conditions that participants hit using portable mats; use whiffle-type practice balls; and use only the outfield of Perkins Park ball field, by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Sawyer. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

### Maintenance

#### *Joppa Park*

Landscaper Mike Hennessey reported that about 75% of the roses at Joppa Park died potentially as a result of the difficult winter. Commissioner Turner recommended replacing the roses with more hardy catmint, hydrangea, and grasses. Director Reid asked Mr. Hennessey to supply a cost estimate for plant replacements.

Ms. Petty reported that the Garden Club voted to stop maintaining the central garden due to lack of volunteer interest. **Motion to remove central garden and replace with turf grass, by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Popken. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

Meeting adjourned 9:00 p.m.

NAME

ADDRESS OR EMAIL (OPTIONAL)

Lindsay + Damien Ogilvie

44 Women St.

DICK MONAHAN

4 SCHOOL ST