

**Minutes of the Newburyport Parks Commission
19 January 2016**

Call to order at 6:01 p.m.

A quorum was present.

In attendance: Kim Turner, Steve Sawyer, Ann Dykes, Ann Lagasse, Karen Popken

Also in attendance: Lisë Reid, Barry Connell, Bruce Vogel, Ethan Manning, Heather Rowe, Nancy Lysik, Sharif Zeid

NEW BUSINESS**Issues***Ad Hoc Fee Committee Review*

Commissioners discussed a proposed fee schedule with the Ad Hoc Fee Committee. The committee asked for more research into what other cities and towns are charging for parks and athletic facility use saying they would review further after that information had been gathered.

Striping of Joppa boat ramp parking and signage

Commissioners discussed striping of the Joppa boat ramp parking area noting the area was deteriorated and it doesn't make sense to stripe it until it is re-surfaced. The topic was tabled until the parking lot renovation project is scheduled.

The commission considered a request to post a "no dumping" sign at Joppa. The topic was tabled to be discussed as part of the improvement project design process.

Free Library on Rail Trail

Commissioners discussed a proposal by Elizabeth Marcus of the Green Artists League to install a "little free library" on the Clipper City Rail Trail in the vicinity of the Alchemical Garden. **Motion to approve installation of free library contingent on using pre-fab design or providing commission with design plans prior to installation and that Green Artists League be responsible for maintenance by Commissioner Sawyer, seconded by Commissioner Lagasse. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.** Commissioners further directed that any seating to be added to the site would require a separate approval process.

Appointment of Off Leash Subcommittee

Commissioner Turner appointed Commissioners Popken and Dykes to an off leash sub-committee to research the city's needs in terms of a fenced dog park, and how to remedy where to put one.

Brown Square – Naming of Veterans' Square

Commissioners considered a request to name the veterans memorial area at Browns Square "Veterans Square." Commissioners suggested the veterans group consider the name "Veterans Court" instead.

Signage Changes at Bartlet Mall

Commissioners discussed a request by Planning Board Chair Jim McCarthy to remove several signs at Bartlet Mall. **Motion to remove one "no parking" sign, remove the "Newburyport Center" sign, Add "Newburyport Center" panel to existing Custom House Maritime Museum and Welcome Center sign contingent on approvals by other relevant city agencies by Commissioner Popken, seconded by Commissioner Sawyer. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

Fuller Field – Gated Entry Bollards

Commissioners discussed a request by the Department of Public Services to install a bollard at the back entrance to Bradley Fuller Athletic Facility. **Motion to approve installation of a bollard at the Dexter Lane entrance to Bradley Fuller Athletic Facility by Commissioner Lagasse, seconded by Commissioner Turner. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

Memorial Brick Program

Director Reid proposed a sponsorship program in which donors would give \$100 to sponsor a brick. The bricks would be engraved with the sponsor's message. Commissioners asked that the program at this time be limited to Inn Street. **Motion to approve the brick sponsorship program for Inn Street by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Sawyer. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

Permits – Tri for the Y

Commissioners advised Director Reid that she could approve the Tri for the YWCA permit application when received and use the wording approved at a prior meeting as follows: "Do not block rail trail with any obstructions. This permit does not give you exclusive use of the Clipper City Rail Trail; please inform participants and/or be sure to employ adequate staff or volunteers to ensure that the trail is open to the general public for regular use at all times during your event."

Handicap parking signage

Commissioners discussed adding signage demarcating handicap parking spaces at Cushing Park, Moseley Woods, Joppa Park, and Woodman Park. They recommended designating one spot at Cushing Park near the playground area, and noted there are no delineated parking spaces on Woodman Park's gravel surface. They discussed painting a handicap spot at Joppa Park because posting a sign would impede the water view. Director Reid said she would investigate requirements with the city's ADA Coordinator and whether posting the sign on the sea wall would be acceptable. **Motion to approve adding handicap signage to Cushing Park and Moseley Woods as noted above by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Lagasse. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

Permitting Alcoholic Beverages

Commissioners considered a request to serve beer at a gathering permitted to use Moseley Woods pavilion. They advised Director Reid that the Commission would not authorize drinking at city parks.

Embankment Slide on Rail Trail

Commissioners discussed installing an embankment slide on the Clipper City Rail Trail. Sites considered include: the slope between the harbor overlook and the main trail where it meets the Cashman Park boardwalk connector; and the wooded slope between the High Street spur pathway and the main trail in the vicinity of the steam locomotive play sculpture. Commissioners advised further research into the slide's viability in one of those locations.

Other Business

Commissioner Turner notified Director Reid that there are two large spikes in the wooded area between the High Street spur and the main rail trail. Director Reid said she would look into having them removed.

Meeting Minutes Review

Commissioner Popken noted in the August minutes that Ann Dykes was not present but that she herself was present at the August meeting. **Motion to approve August 2015 minutes with changes and December 2015 minutes by Commissioner Sawyer, seconded by Commissioner Lagasse. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

Meeting adjourned 7:45 p.m.