

**Minutes of the Newburyport Parks Commission
10 March 2016**

Call to order at 6:04 p.m.

A quorum was present.

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

Also in attendance: Lisë Reid, Carmella Murphy, Kevin Hunt, Dan Raycroft, Rich Banks

NEW BUSINESS**Issues***Bird houses – multiple parks*

Commissioners discussed a proposal to paint and install birdhouses on trees in parks including on the Rail Trail, at March's Hill, Bartlet Mall and downtown as a Girl Scout Silver Award project. The group will have an Instagram account to see where the houses have been hung. The houses will be numbered. The houses are designed to attract sparrows and chickadees. Commissioner Turner asked for a list of trees where they have been hung. **Motion to approve the request by Commissioner Sawyer, seconded by Commissioner Popken. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.** Commissioners asked Director Reid to notify Carmella that she should consult the Tree Commission.

Brown Square – brick program

Rich Banks presented the Commission with a selection of names to choose from for the memorial area that will be home to the new Veterans Memorial brick sponsorship program. **Motion to approve naming the memorial area "Veterans Park at Brown's Square" by Commissioner Sawyer, seconded by Commissioner Turner. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

The group also proposed installing a granite bench in the memorial area. **Motion to approve pending design approval by Commissioner Dykes, seconded by Commissioner Popken. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

Off leash signage

Director Reid reported that estimates for manufacture of new off leash signage came in over budget and wondered if they would approve one less signage post at both March's Hill and Moseley Woods to reduce costs. **Motion to approve removing the two posts by Commissioner Popken, seconded by Commissioner Turner. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

Cushing – book bin fencing

Request to enclose Cushing Park book bins with decorative fencing tabled until commission reviews design of planting strip.

Move tennis court bench at Perkins

Commissioners considered a request to move the basketball court bench to inside the tennis court fencing at Perkins Park. **Motion to approve moving the bench pending review of the Parks Department and that no damage be done to the bench or court areas by Commissioner Sawyer, seconded by Commissioner Turner. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

Portable restroom at Perkins

Commissioners reviewed a request to pay for maintenance of a portable restroom at Perkins Park. **Motion to deny the request by Commissioner Sawyer, seconded by Commissioner Turner. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

Bench addition, modification at Joppa Park

Director Reid reported that some residents including senior residents are having difficulty accessing the new benches at Joppa Park due to the nature of the cobble landings and the design of the reclining benches themselves. **Motion to approve installing two traditional benches with paver landings in the grassy spaces between the existing benches by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Sawyer. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

Dugouts at Cashman Park

Commissioners reviewed a request by the school athletic department to add dugouts at Cashman Park. Commissioners asked for information on cost and had some concerns about providing a space for illegal activity. **Topic was tabled pending further information.**

Metzy's picnic table donation

Commissioners reviewed a request by Metzy's to donate one picnic table, worth about \$600 each, per year to the Pond Street lawn area at Bartlet Mall as his donation for utilizing the space to sell his food. The discussion was tabled pending research into table design.

Geocache at Atwood Park

Commissioners considered a proposal to place a Geocache site at Atwood Park. **Motion to approve by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Sawyer. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

Mtg Minutes Review

Motion to approve January 2016 meeting minutes by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Sawyer. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned 7:20 p.m.