

**Minutes of the Newburyport Parks Commission  
27 July 2016**

Call to order at 1:10 p.m.

A quorum was present.

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

Also in attendance: Lisë Reid, Michael Hennessey, Councilor Sharif Zeid, Cris Miller, Jane Niebling, Tom Kolterjahn, Dick Monahan, Connie Preston, Jennifer White.

**Motion to waive the rules to take the agenda out of order by Commissioner Sawyer, seconded by Commissioner Popken. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Issues**

#### *Removal of 2 Norway maples at Atwood Park*

Commissioners listened to public comment about the proposal to remove two Norway maples at Atwood Park in an effort to improve the lawn and lighten the park. Neighbors who attended supported the project. Director Reid read several letters of support from neighbors who could not attend the meeting. Tree Commission Chair Crispin Miller also voiced support for the project. No one voiced comments against the proposal. Connie Preston also suggested pruning other trees to raise the canopy and lighten the park. **Motion to remove two Norway maples at Atwood Park by Commissioner Sawyer, seconded by Commissioner Lagasse. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

#### *Watering trees at Bartlet Mall*

Tree Commission Chair Crispin Miller proposed the planting of five trees at the Bartlet Mall, saying they will buy and plant them, but asked if the Parks Commission would be willing to water them once a week for two seasons while they establish, an estimated 20 gallons/week. The Bartlet Mall Commission has already accepted the tree donations. Parks Manager Mike Hennessey said he would commit to making sure they get watered. **Motion to accept planting of five trees at Bartlet Mall by Commissioner Sawyer, seconded by Commissioner Lagasse. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

There was a discussion of the Friends of Newburyport Trees' application for funding to The Mayor Gayden W. Morrill Charitable Foundation.

*Landscape plan at Three Roads traffic triangles*  
Tabled until a future meeting.

*Fence removal at Cashman Park*

The commission discussed removing the dilapidated chain link fence along the Cashman Park-Lombardi Oil property line. There was a discussion about cost of replacement, a suggestion to use low cost split rail fencing, and whether split rail would be adequate to keep people from using it as a park entrance.

**Motion to replace old chain link fence at Cashman Park with split rail fencing by Commissioner Popken, seconded by Commissioner Sawyer. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

*The Mayor Gayden W. Morrill Charitable Foundation application review and recommendations*

**Motion to approve recommendations as amended by Commissioner Lagasse, seconded by Commissioner Popken. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

*Receive correspondence – request for public swimming pool*

Correspondence was received and commissioners noted that the request referred to Maudslay State Park, not city parks.

## **PARKS DIRECTOR UPDATES**

### **Current Projects**

*Joppa Park parking lot and walkway update*

The Parks Commission considered a potential offer by Department of Public Services to pave the parking area and/or re-surface the seawall walkway with concrete as part of a Water Street paving project that will take place in August or September. **Motion to accept, if made available, the DPS offer to repave the boat ramp parking lot at Joppa Park with asphalt and re-stripe parking spaces by Commissioner Sawyer, seconded by Commissioner Turner. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

### **Permitting**

**Motion to approve PMC Kids Ride and Walk Against Violence events on the Clipper City Rail Trail with standard caveats, by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Popken. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.**

The Commission asked for more information about the Chamber Grand Tasting event on Inn Street.

Meeting adjourned 2:31 p.m.