

**Newburyport Waterfront Trust**  
Police Station Conference Room  
March 15, 2017  
Minutes

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Steve Hines called a regular meeting of the Newburyport Waterfront Trust to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

In attendance were Trustees Wilbur Shenk, Steve Hines, Dan Mello and George Ellison.

**3. Minutes**

Wilbur Shenk moved to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2017 meeting. George Ellison seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**4. Treasurer's Report**

Income for the month of February was \$23,170. This included \$17,500 from the City for parking and \$3,000 from bench plaques. Expenses were approximately \$1,900, resulting in a positive cash flow of \$21,270. The cash balance is \$196,000.

George Ellison moved to approve the payment of the following expenses totaling \$4,435:

- Wilkinson Septic for the monthly portable toilet rental in the amount of \$200
- Edith Heyck in the amount of \$1,375 for her monthly salary
- Gretchen Joy in the amount of \$150 for minute taking
- Sonora DesignWorks in the amount of \$62 for training
- Edith Heyck in the amount of \$24 for flowers for Joe Brown
- Szczechowicz Landscape Services in the amount of \$2,349 for the landscaping contract
- Vanessa White in the amount of \$275 for a refund for a wedding

Steve Hines seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**5. Riverside Park Improvements**

The Riverside Park sign has been reinstalled and is located in one of the islands. The lights for the front of the Ale House will be installed when they are received. The City will sweep the lot when the weather improves. Joe Leone received a quote of \$1,200 for the striping of the lot. The Trust's share of the expense would be \$700. Wilbur Shenk moved to approve a payment of \$700 for the painting of lines in the parking lot. George Ellison seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Edith Heyck received a quote of \$9,000 from Szczechowicz Landscape Services for the planting of the two islands in the parking lot. In addition to the cost of the plant materials, the quote includes the removal of the construction debris that was dumped in the islands and the addition of loam and some large boulders. Steve Hines will ask the City to prepare the islands for planting and new quotes will be sought for the installation of plant materials.

## **6. Waterfront Trust Amendment**

The meeting with Mayor Holaday, the Waterfront Trust and the NRA that was cancelled due to the weather has been rescheduled for April 6. The Trustees discussed potential sources of income for supporting an enlarged park. Ownership of the submerged tidelands and the east lot should provide an adequate revenue stream. Members of COW urged the Trustees to make it clear they wish the east lot to be conveyed to the Trust and not the City, saying they are concerned the land would not be protected from development if the City were to have control over it.

## **7. Waterfront Committee Report**

Harbormaster Paul Hogg requested the Trust allow the Coast Guard to tie up its boats in the embayment during the winter. The boats must be moved out of the river during storms and are now being taken to Gloucester. Allowing them to remain in Newburyport would be important for the community and boater safety. The Coast Guard does not wish to tie the boats to the pilings but rather to docks, which the Trust does not own. A portion of the embayment is too shallow for larger boats at low tide and the fishing boats would have the right of first refusal. The Trustees will explore the idea and would be willing to accommodate the Coast Guard if the fishing boats do not return to the embayment.

## **8. Parks Committee Report**

### **Park Use Applications**

Ashley Matthews verbally expressed interest in again conducting a yoga class on the waterfront on Saturday mornings. She will be asked to submit an application.

*Northshore Magazine* is interested in holding a ticketed event, the Best of the Northshore, on the waterfront. The group would not be able to install fencing or otherwise prevent others from using the park.

### **Park Manager's Report**

Edith Heyck said she has communicated with the Newburyport Garden Club about redesigning the stage gardens. She said the group would wish to replace the soil and completely replant the beds. She would prefer to have the work done in a more piecemeal way so the beds would not be fully disturbed at the time of year the park is heavily used. The Trust will instead focus its efforts on repointing the stage.

## **9. Public Comment**

Rob Germinara, 2 Ashland Street, asked about the timing of striping of the parking lot, saying the City's budget includes \$80,000 for a finish coat for a portion of the pavement that must be used in this fiscal year. The Trustees responded the finish coat would not be applied until some time in the future, after the culvert project has been completed.

Nicholas Metcalf, High Road, Newbury, said the Committee for an Open Waterfront would be willing to raise money for the park.

## **10. Adjournment**

George Ellison moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Wilbur Shenk seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.