

Newburyport Waterfront Trust
Police Station Conference Room
April 19, 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 March 15, 2017 meeting. George Ellison seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Treasurer's Report

The cash balance at the end of March was \$194,256, which did not differ greatly from the balance at the end of the previous month. George Ellison moved to approve the payment of bills for April totaling approximately \$7,000 for bookkeeping services, minute taking, the portable toilet rental, the landscaping contract and the park manager's salary. Steve Hines seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Riverside Park Improvements

The lights for Ale House have not yet been manufactured. Steve Hines gave the distributor a deadline of June 1 for them to be received. The City has cleaned and loamed the islands and swept the lot. The lines will be painted within the week. Quotes are being sought for the planting of the islands, which would include rocks and shrubs, but no perennials.

6. Waterfront Trust Amendment

Jared Eigerman intends to reconvene the meetings of the Ad Hoc Central Waterfront Committee. The next meeting is schedule for April 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. Wilbur Shenk will represent the Trust at the meetings. The issues at hand are the distribution of the NRA property and funding sources for the management of an expanded park. Steve Hines asked Grace Connolly to assist with the revisions to the Trust document when the time is appropriate. He opened the meeting to comments from the public. Lon Hachmeister said he believes the Trust will be offered the NRA property at the April 26 meeting. Rob Germinara asked the Trustees to vote to accept the land. The Trustees responded they do not believe such a vote would be necessary, as they have made their position clear. They would agreeable to accepting the land but have concerns about funding and environmental issues. Elizabeth Harris said the Trust would not be able to depend on the City to provide funding for the maintenance of the park. The Trust would have the right to lease the submerged tidelands and this would not need to be negotiated. Elizabeth Heath said the NRA is waiting for the Trust to indicate it would

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accept the land. Joanie Purinton said the Settlers and Cow believe the Trust would protect the land in perpetuity and are mistrustful of the City.

7. Waterfront Committee Report

A check was received from Bill Taplan. Steve Hines will contact the owner of the *Ninth Wave*, whose check was dated 2016 and was for an incorrect amount. The new ticket booth should be in place next week.

8. Parks Committee Report

A joint project with the NRA is being considered for planting Somerby's Way. Wilbur Shenk moved to accept a proposal in the amount of \$1,800 for the Trust's share of the cost to improve the soil, plant and water the six beds along Somerby's Way. Dan Mello seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

A Chapter 91 license is not needed for the berm project. The work is to begin May 2 and should be completed by the end of the month. A check in the amount of \$12,500 will be issued to the contractor when work begins.

Quotes are being received for the repointing of the stage and surrounding balusters.

Park Use Applications

Wilbur Shenk moved to accept an application from Fuel for 150 sessions with a fee of \$800. George Ellison seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Wilbur Shenk moved to accept an application from Ashley Matthews for Saturday morning yoga classes with a fee of \$270. Dan Mello seconded the motion. Ms. Matthews plans to conduct three times as many sessions this season as she held last year, when the fee last year was \$135. The motion was unanimously approved.

Wilbur Shenk moved to accept an application for Yankee Homecoming with a fee of \$3,250. George Ellison seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Wilbur Shenk moved to issue a refund of the \$275 fee for the Brennan/Johnson wedding. George Ellison seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Wilbur Shenk moved to accept an application for a June 3 wedding with a fee of \$275. George Ellison seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Northshore Magazine is interested in holding a ticketed event, the annual Best of the Northshore celebration, in the park. Rick Settler, the publisher of the magazine, said the winners of the awards would be asked to participate in the event by sharing food or demonstrations with the public. The ticketed event would be held on August 26 and should attract 1,200 to 1,600 participants and 60 vendors. Mr. Settler was informed members of the public could not be prevented from walking through the event and the fencing may not block the walkways. Wilbur Shenk move to approve the application

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from *Northshore Magazine* with the fee of \$2,000 and the conditions the walkways are to remain open and the City is to be named as an additional insured. George Ellison seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Park Manager's Report

Edith Heyck said the water in the park has been turned on but the restrooms are not yet open. She was told that when they do open, it would first be for weekdays only, as the City does not have staff on hand to manage them over weekends.

Wilbur Shenk moved to accept a proposal from The Handyman in the amount of \$960 for repairs to the boardwalk. George Ellison seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

9. Public Comment

Rob Germinara, 2 Ashland Street, said six lights on the boardwalk are not working and the color of the bulbs is inconsistent. Steve Hines will contract Dave Zinck.

10. Adjournment

George Ellison moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. Dan Mello seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.