

Newburyport Waterfront Trust
June 2, 2014
Police Station Conference Room
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Doug Locy called a meeting of the Newburyport Waterfront Trust to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Doug Locy, Jody Fraser, Si Morrill and Joe Brown.

3. Minutes

Si Morrill moved to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2014 meeting as amended. Joe Brown seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Treasurer's Report

Credits for the past month totaled \$8,677 and debits totaled \$5,115, bringing the account balance to \$201,459.

Si Morrill moved to approve a payment in the amount of \$514.08 for snow removal and sanding by the DPS. Doug Locy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Joe Brown moved to accept the contract with the Greenskeeper as written. Si Morrill seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Park Use Applications

Doug Locy moved to approve an application from Justin Dotolo for a June 27, 2015 wedding. Jody Fraser seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The discussion of an application submitted by Erin Kaya for a salsa dance on the boardwalk was tabled because Ms. Kaya was not present. The Trustees commented that the application would not be approved as submitted because a fee would be charged to participants.

6. Chair's Report

Doug Locy reported that:

- he will provide a revised draft Annual Report for discussion at the next meeting.
- Trust meetings will now be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be schedule for June 25.
- he will distribute a policy prepared by Lisë Reid on the use of City parks by school groups. Waterfront Park is listed as a mixed-use park. The Trustees had previously indicated the park should be listed as a passive one.

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- the Women's Crisis Center wishes to begin its annual walk against domestic violence on October 5 at the waterfront. The item will be discussed after an application has been received.
- Josh Wrigley expressed interest in installing a series of educational QR-coded signs along the boardwalk about the North Shore marsh environment. The discussion was tabled because the Mr. Wrigley was not in attendance. The Trustees expressed a concern about setting a precedent by allowing one group to install signage. Si Morrill and Jody Fraser will research the placement of information stations on Trust property.

7. Fiscal Year 2015 Financial Plan and Five-year Capital Plan

The projected income and reimbursement for FY 2015 is \$86,250 and recurring expenses are expected to total \$59,850. An estimated \$142,850 would be budgeted for special projects. The improvements to the Riverside Park parking lot are expected to cost \$130,000. Joe Brown said he would like to see the number of parking spaces reduced and more landscaped areas created. The Trustees will discuss the issue further at a future meeting. Si Morrill moved to accept the Fiscal Year 2015 Financial Plan and Five-year Capital Plan with the addition of \$6000 in FY16 to the Capital Plan for the refurbishment of the boardwalk railings. Jody Fraser seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

8. Park Committee Report

- The irrigation system is functioning.
- No progress has been made on the slacklining issue. The Trustees are in favor of establishing an area for the activity but are waiting for an opinion from Kopelman and Paige about liability. The City tree warden has said he would remove any wrap he finds placed on trees, but he does not have jurisdiction over the trees on Trust property. Doug Locy reported that the Police Department would enforce a prohibition of the activity if signs were posted.
- The committee will determine if fertilizing is necessary for the older trees.
- Joe Brown moved to approve the purchase of eight signs for a cost of \$2,280 pending the finalization of the content. Si Morrill seconded the motion. Five signs would list the locations of public restrooms. These signs would be placed along the boardwalk and the embayment. The Maritime Society will be contacted about adding the Custom House to the list of public restrooms. The three remaining signs would list the activities that are prohibited in the park. The motion was unanimously approved.
- The committee intends to have additional benches for the boardwalk custom made, as the design is not commercially available.

9. Firehouse Lease

Jody Fraser and Si Morrill have met with Peter Kelly and Maureen Daley and are in the process of scheduling a second meeting.

10. Waterfront Committee Update

- Joe Brown and Scott Sutherland have been working with DCI on the layout for the Riverside Park parking lot.

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- The owner of the *Ninth Wave* might have an opportunity to sell his boat at the end of the season. He is therefore hesitant to enter into a three-year lease agreement. The Trust would wish to receive adequate notice in order to be able to find a replacement vessel for the 2015 season. Joe Brown moved to amend the three-year provision in the contract for the *Ninth Wave* to indicate the lease would terminate on November 1, 2014. Si Morrill seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

11. Committee Appointments

The meeting was opened to public comment. Rob Germinara, 2 Ashland Street, said Joe Brown has done a great deal for the city. He requested Mr. Brown not be removed from any Trust committees. Doug Locy reviewed the committee assignments and spoke about the issues surrounding boundary survey, the future conveyances of land and the leasing of bulkhead to the Harbormaster. He said he would like Joe Brown to continue working with Scott Sutherland on the tour boat leases, but he does not wish him to be involved in the process of negotiating with other parties. Joe Brown said he is concerned about the negotiations that have been taking place with the Mayor, the Harbormaster and the NRA. He would like to receive a real estate value estimate for the dock space and said he believes the revenue from the docks should be used for the park. He commented that he does not wish to be partially involved with a committee. Doug Locy moved that the Waterfront Committee be comprised of himself and Scott Sutherland. Bill Harris, on behalf of the Friends of the Newburyport Waterfront, advised the Trustees to retain an attorney, saying the Friends are close to litigating the Trust concerning the protection of the leasing rights and the fulfillment of Trust obligations. Sandy Small, 25 Oak Street; Chris Czernick, 32 Water Street; Marlene Switzer, 38 Charles Street; Sharon Scott and Patricia Lawrence all expressed concern that the Trustees appear to be attempting to exclude a dissenting opinion, one that is shared by many members of the audience, by removing Joe Brown from the Waterfront Committee. The motion was not seconded and was withdrawn.

12. Dumpster Relocation

A concrete slab for the dumpster was installed at a cost of \$400.

13. Parking Advisory Committee Report

Parking revenue for April, the first month of the new contract year, was \$2,578. This is an increase of 47% from last year's revenue of \$1,753.

14. Adjournment

Joe Brown moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Doug Locy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.