



## Newton Parks & Recreation Commission

### Meeting Minutes

### Room 205 – City Hall

**7:00 p.m. –Monday, October 19, 2015**

**Attending:** Chairman Arthur Magni, Vice-Chairman Richard Tucker, Commissioner Bob DeRubeis, Andy Stern, Bethel Charkoudian, Byron Dunker, Don Fishman, Peter Kastner, Jack Neville

Meeting began 7:00 pm

#### **1. Meeting Minutes:**

- September 30, 2015 Meeting Minutes including detailed motion submitted by Ouida Young, Associate City Solicitor.
- Mr. Kastner asked where the construction staging area will be located. Ms. Young replied on the land where the construction will take place.
- Commissioner DeRubeis thanked Ms. Young for all of the hard work she has done for the Cabot, Zervas and Angier projects.
- Ms. Young stated the administration owes the Commission for their cooperation on these projects.

*Mr. Kastner made the motion to accept the 09-30-15 meeting minutes and detailed motion submitted by Ms. Young. Mr. Tucker seconded the motion.  
Motion passed 5-0-2.*

#### **2. Commissioner's Reports on Programs, Forestry and Maintenance**

- **Paddy's Road Race** – October 18<sup>th</sup> was another success and the Commissioner Thanks John and Carl O'Hara for their support of the event.
- **Harvest Fair** - was also held this past weekend
- **NSHS Tennis Courts** – closed and being renovated, anticipated to open in the spring. Temporary lines may be painted in the spring until the permanent markings are completed in July.

#### **3. Nahanton Park – Tool Shed – Update**

- Mr. Tucker reviewed the motion from the September 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Commission voted to have the tool shed taken down at Nahanton Park. On October 22<sup>nd</sup> the Newton Historical Commission will be reviewing the permit to demolish the building.
- Chairman Magni asked what the worst outcome of the Oct 22nd meeting is. Mr. Tucker stated the Historical Commission could delay demolition.
- Mr. Hillis, abutter of Nahanton Park at Winchester Street stated the Fire Department has moved out of the park, grass has been planted the area looks great.

- Commissioner DeRubeis stated he received an e-mail from Mr. Clarke about memorializing the site, which can be discussed at a later date.

#### **4. City Sign Policy (see attached)**

- Mr. Stern commented there is a plague of small signs placed in berms, parks, etc. These signs do not belong on city property especially in parks. There is a new sign policy, who determined the approved locations and process.
- Commissioner DeRubeis responded Alderman Johnson has the same concerns as Mr. Stern. Julie Ross, in the Law Department, was contacted about this issue. Some organizations place a lot of signs and forget where they put them so the signs are left out until someone else takes them down.
- Mr. Stern stated open space is degraded by these signs. What is the enforcement of this sign policy?
- Commissioner DeRubeis suggested speaking with City Solicitor Kahn.

#### **5. New Business**

- Mr. Tucker announced a meeting honoring Verne Vance taking place across the hall.
- Ms. Charkoudian asked about the tree volcanoes on Commonwealth Ave. Commissioner DeRubeis stated there is an individual planting unauthorized trees around the city.
- Ms. Wilkinson, member of the Tree Commission stated this issue also occurs with contractors, the Tree Commission is working with the contractors.

Meeting adjourned 7:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted

*Robin McLaughlin*

## **City of Newton Policy for the Regulation of Temporary, Free-Standing Placard-Type Signs on City Property**

### **Purpose:**

This policy has been enacted to: (1) establish an orderly procedure for the placement of such signs on City property; (2) provide designated, approved locations for the placement of such signs on City property; (3) establish timeframes for the removal of such signs and penalties for failure to remove them; and (4) deter the random, haphazard placement of signs on City property.

### **Policy:**

This policy applies to all City of Newton departments and entities, and non-profit entities, or individuals seeking to place temporary, free-standing placard-type signs on City property for an event or events taking place in the City of Newton. This policy applies to signs placed on *City property* and is not intended to replace or supersede any City of Newton Ordinance or regulation relative to the regulation of signs on non-City property and in open-space/recreation and public use districts. This policy does not apply to election signs or to sandwich boards.

The City has established a list of approved City locations where such signs may be placed. Each entity or individual shall be allowed to place one sign which may be no larger than 2 feet by 2 feet at each designated City location. Such signs shall not be illuminated, shall be placed in or on the ground only, and may not be permanently affixed to the ground or any City property. If the sign advertises or announces a one-time event, such sign shall not be placed before fourteen (14) days preceding the event and shall be removed no later than forty-eight (48) hours after conclusion of the event. If the sign advertises or announces a recurring event, for example, an event that occurs every Tuesday during the summer months, such sign may be placed at such locations for a maximum time period of three (3) months and shall then be removed no later than forty-eight (48) hours after the expiration of the three (3) month period. It shall be the responsibility of the entity or individual who places any such sign(s) on City property to remove such sign(s) within the designated time frames. Failure to adhere to this or any other condition of this policy may result in the entity or individual being prohibited from placing signs on City property in the future. The City reserves the right to remove and discard any sign(s) left in place longer than forty-eight (48) hours after expiration of the event, and under no circumstances will the City be responsible for retaining such sign(s). The City of Newton also reserves the right to remove and discard any sign it deems inappropriate or offensive. The City of Newton assumes no liability for signs which have been removed, stolen, damaged or defaced.

### **Designated Locations:**

Temporary free-standing placard-type signs may be placed at one or more of the following locations, with only one (1) sign allowed per event per designated location:

- Halloran Field fence on Crafts Street
- Cold Spring Park on Beacon St. on the grassy area that faces Beacon Street
- Lowell Park at the corner of Walnut and Watertown Street
- Spears Park on Washington Street
- Nahanton Park at the entrance on Nahanton Street
- At the site of the event

Such signs may not be placed on or around any traffic islands, curbs, berms or historic sites unless express permission is given by the Commissioner of Public Works.