

WABAN COMMON, INCORPORATED

August 30, 2021

Park and Recreation Commission
c/o Robin McLaughlin
City of Newton
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Commissioners:

Waban Common, Incorporated, a non-profit 501 (c)3 that has an Adopt-A-Space agreement with the City of Newton's Parks and Recreation Department, would like to formalize the process for Municipal Approval of a commissioned bronze sculpture for placement on Waban Common by asking that you consider this item on your September, 2021 Agenda.

The proposed sculpture is of a bronze caterpillar and will be approximately 7'6" long and 2' in diameter. The cost of the sculpture and its installation is being underwritten by an anonymous donor.

We have met on site with Luis Perez DeMorizi from Newton's Parks and Recreation Department and determined a desirable placement of said sculpture on Waban Common. Taking into account that children will likely climb on this sculpture we will be installing it on a narrow base that will have the sculpture sitting mostly on the grassy lawn on the south side of Waban Common in the canopy of shade provided by the ancient majestic oak and the younger maple nearby.

Thank you in advance for your help in expediting this process. I am attaching two picture of the artist's miniature model of the proposed sculpture. I will be happy to attend the September Zoom meeting of the Commission.

Sincerely yours,

Sallee Lipshutz

Sallee Lipshutz, President
Waban Common, Inc.

WABAN COMMON, INCORPORATED

July 23, 2021

Paula Gannon, Director
Newton Cultural Development
Newton City Hall
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Director Gannon:

Waban Common, Incorporated, a non-profit 501 (c)3 that has an Adopt-A-Space agreement with the City of Newton's Parks and Recreation Department, would like to begin the process for Municipal Approval of a commissioned bronze sculpture for placement on Waban Common.

We have been advised that a Waban resident would like to donate \$50,000 toward the purchase of this to-be commissioned "artwork". We have spent several months attempting to locate a sculptor with ties to New England, Massachusetts, the Boston Region, Newton, and, most ideally Waban. We did this research mostly online, including many art galleries and the DeCordova Museum. We reached out to the MFA, with no response, and to MassArt where we were exposed to the artwork of several Boston area emerging artists. During this research we also reached out to Newton resident Nancy Schon, who currently resides on West Newton Hill. When we spoke with her, we learned that she has close ties to Waban, having lived here for many years while her children attended Angier Elementary School. Her family moved to Washington, D.C. to serve in the Kennedy Administration, but moved back to Newton after President Kennedy's assassination, to her present home in West Newton.

At first, we believed that we could not afford to commission a sculpture from Mrs. Schon; nevertheless, she attended our June Annual Meeting by Zoom and discussed the possibility with us. We have received a proposal from her to create a bronze caterpillar, approximately seven and a half feet long and about two feet high for \$50,000. We have asked a reputable landscape construction company to estimate the installation cost (both with and without the need for a crane to install it) and are awaiting their reply, expected next week. We will ask our benefactress for the installation cost in addition to her \$50,000 donation. We have met on site with Luis Perez DeMorizi from Newton's Parks and Recreation Department and determined possible placement of said sculpture on Waban Common. Taking into account that children will likely climb on this sculpture we will be installing it on a narrow concrete base that will have the sculpture sitting mostly on the grassy lawn on the south side of Waban Common in a shaded area.

We will not proceed until the donation is made to us, but will put the monies donated in trust for the stated purpose. We will not sign any agreement with Nancy Schon until we have the City's blessing on this commission and its installation. Please feel free to contact me for further information at rrcexec@regulatoryresearch.com or 617-965-1379. Thank you in advance for your help in expediting this process.

Sincerely,

Sallee Lipshutz

Sallee Lipshutz, President
Waban Common, Inc.







Robin McLaughlin

From: Luis Perez Demorizi
Sent: Wednesday, September 15, 2021 10:31 AM
To: Robin McLaughlin; rrcexec@regulatoryresearch.com
Cc: Thomas Elkind Esq.; Barbara Brustowicz; Nicole Banks
Subject: RE: Item for September Agenda of Parks, Rec and Culture Commission

Good morning Robin,

I did want to follow up on Waban Common Inc.'s letter proposal. I would like to add to the record that I have indeed met with Waban Common Inc. to discuss the placements, and how it would be installed. I have also provided some guidance on where to locate the art work in relationship to other amenities, shade and accounting for utilities below. The proposed work involved with the installation of the sculpture will be fairly minimal.

Thanks,

Luis Perez Demorizi
Director of Parks & Open Space
Parks, Recreation & Culture Department
City of Newton
T. 617-796-1500

"Earth work is more durable than any other human work" --Charles W. Eliot

From: Robin McLaughlin <rmclaughlin@newtonma.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2021 9:09 AM
To: rrcexec@regulatoryresearch.com
Cc: Thomas Elkind Esq. <tomelkind@gmail.com>; Barbara Brustowicz <brustowicz@verizon.net>; Luis Perez Demorizi <lpdemorizi@newtonma.gov>; Nicole Banks <nbanks@newtonma.gov>
Subject: RE: Item for September Agenda of Parks, Rec and Culture Commission

Good Morning Sallee

The proposal is on the agenda for the September 20 Commission meeting
I will forward the Zoom info along with the agenda by Sept 16

Thank-you

Robin McLaughlin
Newton Parks, Recreation & Culture Dept
617-796-1510

From: rrcexec@regulatoryresearch.com <rrcexec@regulatoryresearch.com>
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2021 2:26 PM
To: Robin McLaughlin <rmclaughlin@newtonma.gov>
Cc: Thomas Elkind Esq. <tomelkind@gmail.com>; Barbara Brustowicz <brustowicz@verizon.net>; rrcexec@regulatoryresearch.com; Luis Perez Demorizi <lpdemorizi@newtonma.gov>; Nicole Banks

<nbanks@newtonma.gov>

Subject: Item for September Agenda of Parks, Rec and Culture Commission

[DO NOT OPEN links/attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hi Robin:

Attached is the proposal for placing a bronze sculpture of a caterpillar on Waban Common. Please add this as a discussion item to the September Agenda of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Also, please include me and the other two members of the Executive Board of Waban Common, Incorporated, to the Zoom invitation information for the September meeting.

The Zoom invites should go to:

- 1.) Me at rrcexec@regulatoryresearch.com
- 2.) Tom Elkind at tomelkind@gmail.com
- 3.) Barbara Brustowicz at Brustowicz@verizon.net

Thanks in advance.

Sallee Lipshutz