

TO: Newburyport Redevelopment Authority  
ATTN: Chairperson Nat Norton  
Vice-Chairperson Rick Taintor

CC: Newburyport Waterfront Trust  
ATTN: Chairperson Cliff Goudey, to be forwarded this communication with a foreword

NOTE: The communication also may be forwarded to those parties having previously reviewed the draft text (advanced on July 17, 2009)

FROM: Comity of Correspondence (Comity, so called)  
Contact: The Dears, Ken and Dominique (email at [comity@comcast.net](mailto:comity@comcast.net))

SUBJECT: Proposal to consider "landmark events" to apply the NRA central waterfront conceptual design onsite in order to gain insight and incite progress for the next important phase of the Waterside's "development and envelopment"

DATE: June 22, 2009

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***Please read bold text for quick review; Take note: → points to key info/input.***

*Additional footnotes provided FYI.*

*Some content (particularly that footnoted) has been taken/tailored from existing material. Please be advised that Comity's side of this communication may be forwarded to other parties/partners with a foreword.*

**This correspondence, submitted electronically on June 22, 2009, is addressed to the respective chairpersons and co-chairpersons of the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority (NRA) above, copying the Newburyport Waterfront Trust Chairperson.**

**The proposal is submitted with a summary in the body of the email, which then references further context/content available online at [Comity.org](http://Comity.org) (see direct [hyperlink](#)) as well as in pdf format.** (That pdf file is included as an attachment to this electronic transmission and also found online, linked from the above noted hyperlink.)

**NOTE: The chairperson of Newburyport Waterfront Trust (NWT) will be forwarded this communication with a foreword, with that context (and other content) addressing the broader concept, part and parcel to public lands entrusted to the NWT.**

**FURTHER NOTE:** The content which follows is the final draft of a proposition to the NRA and NWT to consider onsite "landmark event(s)" as a means to [apply](#) (and [ply](#)) the central waterfront (preferred alternative) design park/parking plan "on the ground."

On July 17, a draft of this document was forwarded to parties who had been promised (or requested) advance review of the text. In that exchange, Comity indicated that the final draft would be submitted (by June 22) to the boards' respective chairpersons to consider inclusion as an item on the upcoming meetings' agendas and/or to ensure an opportunity for brief discussion (during public comment).

It was also conveyed that communication would consist of the summary text ("IN BRIEF") with a hyperlink to further context presented at this Comity.org webpage (and/or as a pdf file). The content which follows is taken/tailored from that June 17 draft communication. (With the content in pdf format soon available at this link within.)

**\*\*\*\*\* IN BRIEF (summarized text in the body of the email) \*\*\*\*\***

**→ Submitted in advance of the upcoming NRA public forum: A proposal to consider occasion(s) to scope/map out the current Cecile Group conceptual design plan for the NRA central waterfront lots "on the ground" --- thereby offering experiential insight, directly onsite.**

*[Over time (and space) --- gainful insight may be had within and without the surrounds of the NRA lots: (citing) sites such as the NWT public lands, the extended boardwalk and Rail Trail under the City's "planning and development," along with other waterfront properties --- including open lands and (infra)structures, (the Water and Sewer Commission's improvements to the water treatment plant) and those under government and quasi-government leases such as the Firehouse and Custom House Maritime Museum].*

**→ This correspondence also requests/suggests that this "quest" be briefly (p)reviewed at the upcoming NRA and NWT meetings, with any questions about the proposal posed at that time (or in advance).**

**\*\*\*\*\* ADDENDA (further detail online and as pdf attachment) \*\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*\*\* (RE)INTRODUCTION \*\*\*\*\***

[Previously broached throughout the ongoing process to develop the central waterfront parcels under the auspices of the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority (NRA), bounded in part by public properties entrusted to the stewardship of the Newburyport Waterfront Trust (NWT) ---

**→ The basic proposition was last revisited with NRA members at the onset of the latest park/parking conceptual design project in the spring of 2007. And as mentioned during public comment at the NRA meeting held May 25, 2009 and tentatively "couched" with the NWT thereafter --- it would be preferable to reintroduce the proposal in advance of the pivotal NRA public forum to be held Tuesday, June 30 (rescheduled from June 23).**

\*\*\*\*\* CONSIDERATION (UNDERWAY) \*\*\*\*\*

Whenever offered for consideration, the concept has been well received --- → with the mayor and director of Office of Planning and Development (OPD) recently indicating their support and endorsement, encouraging that this be further pursued and explored with the Newburyport Redevelopment Authority as well as the Newburyport Waterfront Trust (and eventually other "stakeholders").

→ Since it would be "gainful" to share a mutual understanding about the concept in advance --- (rather than any perceived "grandstanding" with public comment at the NRA forum) --- **it is suggested that the basic proposition which follows be previewed at the next regularly scheduled NRA and NWT meetings**, addressed with a 2 - 3 minute "elevator/escalator speech." (Further detail and/or discussion would put the concept into a broader context, including presentation on this Comity.org webpage.)

\*\*\*\*\* THE BASIC PROPOSITION \*\*\*\*\*

→ **With the next phase of this community venture, it is proposed that a series of "landmark events" be organized to put the** (preferred alternative of the) **Cecile Group conceptual plan "into practice."**

*[E.g., marking the areas designated for park and parking, delimiting parking when/if practicable as well as "staging" the conceived recreation and entertainment areas in the easterly and westerly lots to consider conflicts with acoustics at Market Landing Park.]*

→ **Such occasions would offer a spatial "sense of place" and demonstrate the conceptual design's practicality and functionality. Additionally, this "learning experience" and "onsite insight" would be useful to refine the final comprehensive plans --- not only in the phased development of the NRA lots but in the eventual development of the surrounding public and private enterprises ---** compelling/propelling a "sense of purpose" within the Waterside community.

*[E.g., the Rail Trail and expanded boardwalk (projected completion this fall), the citywide parking plan (the final plan projected for review in December), in addition to the future expansion of the Custom House Maritime Museum, New England Development's phased planning and development.]*

→ **It is also suggested that such "landmark events" will bring further momentum to the any fundraising efforts, especially in context of a grander "scheme" to** measure (and ensure) progress ~ lending a whit of wit, wisdom and whimsy in/to the process.

*[For advance review about the schema, the reader is prompted to SMILE (Seek More Information/insight Logged/linked Electronically) at the footnotes below which track content/context destined for revision to the [Comity.org](http://Comity.org) website, particularly the [Plan in Motion](#) and [Compass and Calendar](#) webpages.]*

\*\*\*\*\* LOOKING FORWARD \*\*\*\*\*

Given the first of such experiments should be scheduled when lighter vehicular and pedestrian traffic is anticipated --- **a "dry run" might be considered as soon as the first weekend in October** (The Full Harvest Moon) and/or the last weekend in October, and possibly coordinated with the completion of the Rail Trail and boardwalk extension ~ **in anticipation of a "Once in a Blue Moon" opportunity** celebration (and [celebration](#)) **on New Year's Eve** (referenced on page 38 of the Chamber of Commerce Newburyport 2009-2010 guidebook).

*[Since that event listing in the Chamber's guide book, Comity is well on the way to enlisting parties and partners in this overall schema; duly noting that (in due course) ~ during the organization of related events and activities ~ the OPD, the NRA and NWT would only be asked to serve in the key roles to "advise and consent." (Then participate as desired, of course.)*

*Please refer to the footnotes below for tracts of content/context for the revised Comity.org website ~ deferring full posting of the proposition until "positing" the proposal to the NRA and NWT (and other parties and partners) ~ with the clear intent to come to a "meeting of the minds" that this will be pursued.]*

Looking forward to further exchange.

Take care.

Forwarded in a [Motion of Comity](#),

by the Waterside Committee of Correspondence (Comity, so called)

\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE FURTHER ADDENDA \*\*\*\*\*

Above-referenced footnotes and further annotations can be found on following page.

\*\*\*\*\* FOOTNOTES AND ADDENDA: ADDITIONAL CONTEXT \*\*\*\*\*

\* Noting that Comity.org website is currently under revision (to be posted in phases with the New and Full Moons, as mentioned below \*\*\*) with the Waterside "Plan in Motion" webpage updated for the next 5-year term (which will bring us to the Waterside community of Newburyport to its 250-year milestone in 2014). Duly noting the [Comity.org](#) webpage "Plan in Motion" (see [hyperlink](#)) begins by quoting Oliver Wendell Holmes and Ralph Waldo Emerson, two renowned personages known to have presented at Newburyport's Athenaeum lecture series held at the Market House (now the Firehouse Center for the Arts).

*"The great thing in this world is not so much where we are, but in what direction we are moving." --- Oliver Wendell Holmes*

*"Progress is the activity of today and the assurance of tomorrow." "All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better." --- Ralph Waldo Emerson, who has been quoted to have quipped ... "I hate quotations. Tell me what you know." (See footnote \*\*)*

\*\* Let us impart (in part) what we know to be true, in hindsight and foresight: On April 26 [*the New Pink (or Sprouting Grass) Moon*] ~ the forethought of Comity's "proem" ~ which had been submitted to the Annual NHS Favorite Poem Project (see [hyperlink](#)) and selected by the NHS for recitation at the Firehouse Center for the Arts (the very site where the notable minds quoted above enlightened their audiences). Along with recitation of the forethought, (Whitman's "One Thought Ever at the Fore" --- Comity explained the relevance for this old style calendar year, "The Year of Charting (New) Courses." This offered the opportunity to mention the "peradventure" for events to come, one to be held at Market Landing Park on the weekend before the New Buck (or Hay) Moon" (with the Recurring Dream Foundation benefit concert on Saturday, July 18 and the Waterside community "Jam and Gam" (concert and conversation) on Sunday, July 19 ~ with the theme, "Reach (for) the Moon" --- which (it is hoped) will gather momentum for moons to come (see footnote \*\*\*)).

\*\*\* As noted above, the Comity.org webpage "Compass and Calendar" is under revision and will be updated by the upcoming NRA meetings, in advance of the NRA forum held by month's end.

*[With July 1 beginning the Commonwealth's new fiscal year --- whereupon the municipal affairs of the constituents of the Waterside community of Newburyport (and other communities in the Commonwealth) begin anew, hopeful of gaining ground toward the common goal (and ultimate destination) of "peace and prosperity."]*

Continuing (in continuity with the exposition (and positioning) of the "proem" on April 26, the charted "compass and calendar" will be further revealed on webpage and print with the waxing Buck Moon (Full Moon July 7 - 8) --- and launched on stage [and (web)page] at the "Reach (for) the Moon" community gathering to be held at Market Landing Park on Sunday, July 19.

NOTE: Plans are in motion for the Waterside "Jam & Gam" (concert & conversation) on Sunday, July 19, coordinated with the Recurring Dream Foundation benefit concert held on Saturday. Check by Comity.org website (see the Waterside community gatherings and games webpage at this [hyperlink](#)).

FURTHER NOTE: In conversation with the founder of "2 Cents 4 Change: Pennies for Change" [about organizing this event as a "Together ~ In a Motion of Comity" community gathering, with approval to be considered at the board meeting to be held July 9 --- which will also play a role in bringing momentum to events to come, including the *Senzeni Na* Poverty Awareness Fair (held in concert with the Volunteer Fair on the third weekend in October, which coincides the New Beaver Moon).

Should the aforementioned proposal for organizing a "dry run" of the "landmark event" be pursued for October 4, pursuant to this date, further overtures with another (greater) Newburyport organization would certainly offer bountiful (and sustaining) "food for thought" to the occasion.