

Newburyport Harbor Commission
City Hall Conference Room
October 11, 2012
Minutes

1. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission was called to order by Chair Brad Duffin at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Brad Duffin, Paul Rooney, Steve Hines, Andrew Casson, Justin Dutcher and Bob Dow. Also in attendance was Harbormaster Paul Hogg. Paul Dahn and Jamie Knapp were absent.

2. Minutes

Paul Rooney moved to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2012 meeting as submitted. Justin Dutcher seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Guest

Bob Uhlig, Chair of Parks Commission, said the two groups have worked together, most recently to improve the boat ramp at Joppa Park, and he is interested in continuing the dialogue. Brad Duffin describes the Commission's plan to renovate the Harbormaster's shack. Mr. Uhlig asked if the parking spaces at Cashman Park might be reconfigured to improve the pedestrian experience. He was told the long spaces are designed for trailers and by statute must be used by boaters.

4. Commission Vacancy

The advertisement to fill the vacancy on the Commission ran in the *Daily News* on October 10. Two applications have been received a third is expected. The interviews will take place at the beginning of the November meeting. Each candidate will be asked the same set of questions. The commissioners will submit their questions to Justin Dutcher, who will compile them and then circulate the final list. Steve Hines said it might be desirable for the new member to be available during the day.

5. New Harbormaster's Facility

Paul Dahn said by email that he expects to receive proposals from two architects before the next meeting and he has received positive reaction to the plan from the NRA and the Maritime Museum. Bob Dow said Paul Hogg should have the final say on the layout of the new structure, which should first and foremost be a boaters' facility. He also said it should be made clear to residents that Harbor Commission resources and not tax dollars would be used to fund the project. Doug Locy, Chair of the Waterfront Trust, said that while approval from the Trustees is not needed, he is in favor of the plan.

6. Transportation Dock

Brad Duffin said the Harbor Commission would like the Harbormaster to oversee the Transportation Dock. The Commission would also like to purchase new docks for this area to achieve a consistency along the length of the bulkhead. Doug Locy said the lease

agreement with the three vessels that currently tie up at the Transportation Dock will expire at the end of 2013. In his opinion, which might differ from that of other members of the Waterfront Trust, a bidding process should determine which vessels use the dock. He said the process is typically the responsibility of harbor commissions, as this is their area of expertise. He said the need exists for both a transportation dock and the accommodation of tour boats. He would like the docks to be expanded to accommodate more boats. The reasons for the denial of the Trust's previous Watersheet application were discussed. Andrew Casson said in other communities tour boats are kept on moorings and use the dock for loading and unloading according to a schedule. Doug Locy said the Trustees are obligated under their declaration to lease the Transportation Dock. The Harbor Commission might lease the dock from the Trust and oversee the bidding process. Bob Dow said according to the City Ordinance the Transportation Dock is to be used for the loading and unloading of boats. George Hilton owns the docks that are currently used by the tour boats. It was agreed the acquisition of new docks should be a priority, as a private entity should not own the docks tied to the City bulkhead. Brad Duffin asked Paul Hogg to contact Boston Tug and Tow for an estimate to continue the docks to the west of the embayment. Their installation should be done in conjunction with the work on the sheet piling. The Commissions' Moorings and Floats subcommittee should work with the Trust's Waterfront committee on these issues. The joint committee should research the possibilities for the management of the Transportation Dock and present its findings to the two groups.

7. Bulkhead Repair

Paul Hogg said he and Jamie Knapp were members of a team put together by the Mayor to evaluate the engineering RFPs for the bulkhead work. Six firms submitted bids. During the presentations it was learned that the \$1.9 million available would be less than half of what would be needed to replace the bulkhead. Vine Associates estimated that a repair of the bulkhead could last 20 to 30 years. The team will recommend two firms to the Mayor.

8. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- work on the jetty is scheduled to begin at the end of the month.
- the boom deployment went well.
- the docks are to be taken out the weekend of October 26.
- he met with Jack Shepard to update the land management agreement. They discussed the possibility of the State donating the existing Fish Pier at Cashman Park to the City and constructing a new one along side it.
- a boater safety course will be held on October 22. Information on the course will be sent to the Newburyport Mothers' Club.
- he ready to move forward with the development of the on-line mooring website. He will ask Richard Jones if City Council approval would be needed to pass the \$5 administrative fee on to the user. The system could also be used for on-line reservations. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

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9. General Business

Bill Stuart submitted a watershed application for 526 Merrimac Street. A public hearing will be held at the November 8 meeting. Andrew Casson will circulate the guidelines for a watershed review.

10. Adjournment

Justin Dutcher moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.