

Newburyport Harbor Commission
City Council Chambers
October 13, 2016
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Andrew Casson called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:04 p.m. In attendance were Dan May, Bob Dow, Andrew Casson and Justin Dutcher. Paul Dahn, Paul Rooney, Jamie Knapp and Chris Kealey were absent.

2. Minutes

Andrew Casson moved to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2016 meeting as submitted. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Review of Harbor Commission Member Positions

The discussion was tabled to a meeting when more members would be present. Andrew Casson said at that time he would ask the members to reaffirm they wish him to be Chair and they are satisfied with the positions to which they were elected. The committee assignments will also be reviewed at that time.

4. Subcommittee Reports

Budget and Finance Committee

None

Regulations, Safety and Moorings Committee

Bob Dow pointed out all members should have a copy of a reference document that provides guidance on holding public hearings for watersheet applications. Merri-Mar Marina intends to replace its docks. The width of the docks might change, which would require the filing of a watersheet application.

Coast Guard City Liaison and Community Outreach Committee

None

5. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg submitted a written report that included the following information:

- Work on the Harbormaster's facility is on track for being completed by the end of November. The framing work, mounting of antennas and installation of spray foam has been finished. The plumbing and electrical inspections have taken place. The exterior shingles are currently being installed. Fire extinguishers and an AED will be added this week and the cameras will be installed next week.
- Last month he organized and hosted a marine firefighting class with the North Shore Harbormasters. Over 30 harbormasters and firefighters attended.
- The south channel near the Whittier Bridge has been completely shut down for most of the month. He has been conducting 24-hour details, for which Walsh Construction and Mass DOT are extremely grateful.

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October 13, 2016

- The docks will be removed on October 27 and 28.
- The lifeguard stands have been removed from the beach. During the winter the DPS will repair them and paint them red for visibility.
- He is working to send out the excise tax bills before the move into the new office.
- He received a thank you letter from John Kustler, who experienced a medical emergency while on his boat. The boat was taken from under the Route 1 bridge to the central waterfront docks, where he was put in an ambulance. He praised the members of the Harbormaster's Department for their quick response.

6. General Discussion

A discussion took place on moving the range light so that the public might enjoy its history. A possible location might be the rear lawn at the Custom House. Dan May said work to facilitate the move had been underway but stalled. He said the Coast Guard Auxiliary would be willing to give tours of the range light. The action might be reconsidered after the Harbormaster's facility has been completed. Bob Dow said another long-term project might be the completion of the embayment at the fish pier.

Rear Admiral Poulin has notified Mayor Holaday the re-designation of Newburyport as a Coast Guard City has been approved. A formal presentation could take place in November in conjunction with a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Harbormaster's facility. A suggestion was made the event could take place under a tent on the Custom House lawn. Mayor Holaday thanked the Commission members for their hard work.

The standard process will be followed for the selection of a new Commission member. Justin Dutcher will place an advertisement in the *Daily News*. Interviews will be scheduled for the December meeting. A discussion will take place at a future meeting about an attendance policy. Members should be able to commit to attending meetings. The Commission formerly had an unwritten rule that members should not miss more than two meetings per year or two meetings in a row.

The City has requested that Kopelman and Page review the ordinances and provide an opinion on presence of houseboats at marinas.

7. Adjournment

Dan May moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission will take place on Thursday, November 9.