

Newburyport Harbor Commission
City Council Chambers
October 23, 2014
Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. Minutes

Bob Dow moved to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2014 meeting as submitted. Andrew Casson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. Tour Boat Proposal

Bill Taplan is requesting the use of an area in the embayment where there currently is no dock. He is proposing to install an 8' by 20' dock that would be attached to the rear of the Charos dock. Its opposite end would be attached to the City dock in the embayment. The Charos ramp would be used to access the dock. A boat that would be used for up-river tours would be tied up to the dock. Three two-hour tours would be offered seven days a week between Memorial Day and Columbus Day. Mr. Taplan would be the sole operator of the vessel. He expects the capacity of the boat to be 12 to 14 passengers. The dock would be transported to Plum Island for the off-season at the same time the Charos float is removed. Mr. Taplan said the new dock would help to stabilize the City dock. The Waterfront Trust approved the proposal contingent on comments from the Harbor Commission.

Paul Hogg said he supports the proposal, as there is currently a void in this location. The new dock would benefit the City and would not present any safety issues. Boaters access the recreational docks by a ladder and should not have access to the proposed new dock. He recommended a barrier be added to create a separation between the new dock and the City dock. The type of barrier has yet to be determined. Mr. Taplan said he would be agreeable to relocating his boat in times of peak demand for dock space, such as during Yankee Homecoming. Mr. Hogg will assist him with finding alternative dock space during these events.

Brad Duffin said an approval of the plan would not convey a perpetual right to the use of the space. The right would not be transferable if Mr. Taplan were to sell or convey his business in any way. Bob Dow said that while the embayment is not to be used by commercial vessels, many members of the community appreciate the endeavors of Mr. Taplan and his reputation carries weight with the Commission.

The Commission members discussed the engineering of the proposed dock. The commercial vessels have damaged the pilings at the Transportation Dock. Paul Hogg is working with the Waterfront Trust to repair the damage. A roller system might be added

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to prevent further damage in the future. Decisions about the Transportation Dock would influence the way in which the proposed dock would be attached to the existing docks.

Bob Dow moved to approve the proposal contingent on final approval by the Harbormaster. Andrew Casson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Subcommittee Reports

Finance Committee

Andrew Casson said he intends to present a complete end of season report at the next meeting. Brad Duffin asked the finance committee to work with the Harbormaster on a draft budget and present a summary on FY2016 expectations.

Regulations, Safety and Moorings Committee

Jamie Knapp said the committee intends to review the rate structure over the winter and compare it to those in surrounding communities.

Coast Guard City Liaison and Community Outreach Committee

Paul Rooney read the proclamation from Mayor Holaday to the Greater Newburyport Mothers and Families Club that will be presented at the November meeting in the appreciation for the club's support of the Coast Guard Station.

5. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- he checked the docks throughout the night during rough weather on October 22. He took care of two boats that had broken free from their moorings.
- the docks will be taken out on October 28 and 29, rather than October 23 and 24, as had been previously scheduled, due to the weather.
- he took part in a training on the deployment of an oil boom on October 21 with DEP, the Amesbury and Newburyport fire departments and the Salisbury harbormaster.
- the details at the Whittier Bridge had been concluded for the season.
- SPS has completed the work in the embayment.
- he is working with the Waterfront Trust to arrange for the repair of the pilings that were damaged by the tour boats.
- he received a check from the Salisbury Harbor Commission for its portion of the cost of the new pump for the pump out station.
- the grant application for the boaters' facility has been submitted. The NRA and Waterfront Trust provided letters of support.
- the Chapter 91 license was issued for the pier at Cashman Park.
- work on the north jetty is expected to begin in March. Additional work on the south jetty is to be done at that time. A light on the south jetty should be installed but would not be done until after the work has been completed.

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6. General Discussion

Resumes from past candidates will be reviewed as a first step to fill the vacancy on the Commission.

Paul Dahn thanked Paul Hogg for coordinating the use of an area near the ramp during the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center Pumpkin Fun Run on the Rail Trail.

7. Adjournment

Paul Rooney moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Dan May seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.