

## **Newburyport Harbor Commission**

Harbormaster's Facility

October 5, 2022

Minutes

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Andrew Casson called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Andrew Casson, Bob Dow, Jamie Knapp, Adam Armstrong, Ron Thurlow, Jay Lesynski, Chris Charos, George Sass and Justin Dutcher. Harbormaster Paul Hogg was also in attendance.

### **2. Minutes**

The approval of the minutes of the July 13, 2022, meeting was tabled. Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2022, meeting. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote, with Justin Dutcher and George Sass abstaining.

### **3. General Discussion**

A discussion took place on the purpose of the Commission. Its members are volunteers who believe in the mission of the Board and wish to assist the City. The role of the Commission is to advise the mayor and to provide support to the Harbormaster. In return, the Commission seeks support from the administration and an understanding of the value of the Commission. The Commission should be helping to steer the City with regards to certain issues, but at times has not been included.

One area of concern is a letter that was sent out from the Mayor with the water bills. The letter stated that 19% of tax dollars support the Fire Department, the Police Department and the Harbormaster's Department. It seems that some response would be in order to provide information on the enterprise system. The Department's revenue is derived from boaters, many of whom do not live in Newburyport, and not taxpayers.

For their part, the Commission members agreed that they do not always accomplish as much between meetings as they should. Priorities should be set and focus should be placed on action items. Each item should have an owner and due date.

Each subcommittee should set two short-term and two long-term goals. One long-term goal discussed was the moving of the federal channel. A short-term goal is the institution of 10A permits. Under Section 10A of MGL Chapter 91, the City is empowered to issue an annual permit for docks and floats and may charge a small fee. Standards for private docks should be developed, along with means of enforcement. The existing docks will be photographed while they are still in the water this season. After this goal has been accomplished, focus can be placed on moorings.

### **4. Coast Guard City**

The plaque for the Cashman Award has been received and the granite should be ready shortly. The presentation of the award should be scheduled for the last week of October or the first week of November. Ron Thurlow will coordinate the event with the Starboard Galley. Andrew Casson will contact the DPS about the installation of the plaque. George Sass will arrange with the *Daily News* for a reporter to be present.

**5. Harbormaster's Report**

Paul Hogg reported that:

- He met with the Planning Office about the expansion of the waterfront park. There will be no electricity in the park or power on the dock during the first phase of construction next year. The cost of temporary power would be \$80,000, which the City is asking to be shared by three parties. The Waterfront Trust will be asked to contribute between \$17,000 and \$20,000. The City and Harbormaster would split the remaining cost. While many boats have generators, the lack of lights on the boardwalk would be a public safety issue. The Harbor Commission would be willing to share in the expense of providing temporary power.
- The central waterfront docks will be removed on October 25 and the docks at Cashman Park will be taken out on November 5. The pump-out boat does not operate after Columbus Day, but the pump-out station will be available until the end of the month.
- He will arrange for the new boat to be shipped in April rather than December.
- He is working with the State on paving the remainder of the Cashman Park lot.
- The Enterprise Fund has been certified.
- The permitting for the dredging was \$40,000 and the work will cost \$50,000. A \$40,000 grant was received. The remaining cost will be split with Salisbury, for a total expense of \$25,000.

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**6. Adjournment**

Justin Dutcher moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. Jamie Knapp seconded the motion. The motion was approved.