

Newburyport Harbor Commission

Online Meeting

October 6, 2021

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, Justin Dutcher, Ron Thurlow and Jay Lesynski. George Sass is on a leave of absence. Harbormaster Paul Hogg was also in attendance.

2. Minutes

Justin Dutcher moved to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2021, meeting. Jamie Knapp seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote (Andrew Casson, yes; Bob Dow, yes; Justin Dutcher, yes; Jamie Knapp, yes; Adam Armstrong, yes; Ron Thurlow, abstain; Jay Lesynski, abstain).

3. Market Landing Park

Andy Port contacted Paul Hogg to request a letter of support for the design of the expanded park. The Commission members are appreciative that the plans include a plaza that would accommodate the crane and the storage of the docks. They would accept the conceptual plans with the provision that the location and size of the plaza shall be sufficient in the final design. The crane must be able to easily enter and exit the plaza. The plaza must allow for the outrigger width of the crane and its turning radius. It might be necessary to locate the plaza closer to the boardwalk in order for the crane to reach the docks. The crane operator must have sufficient visibility. It should be determined that the weight of the crane would not crush the pavers. The docks will be measured to determine the amount of space necessary for their storage. They should not be stacked more than four high.

The fishermen have expressed some concerns about the plans regarding access to the pier and the presence of pedestrians. It is not intended for the flow of traffic to the fish pier to be blocked. Pedestrians are present in the area with the existing conditions. It will remain necessary to work around them. The fisherman want large trucks, such as 18-wheelers, to be able to access the fish pier. Trucks of this size currently do not enter the pier area. However, a large fire truck must be able to access the pier. Safe passage to the Harbormaster's Facility and the fish pier must be a priority and appropriate signage should be included in the plans.

4. Committee Reports

a) Coast Guard City

The Coast Guard City renewal application has been sent from the district office to headquarters. It will be reviewed in December. The George Cashman Award for 2020 will be awarded to the Station Merrimack River as a whole. A stone with a plaque commemorating the Station will be placed near the river or along the Rail Trail. Andrew Casson will meet on site with Geordie Vining, Lisë Reid and Sean Crahen to determine its

location. An event will be held at the Black Cow in the fall for the presentation of both the 2020 and 2021 awards.

The Commission members have questions about way in which the Coast Guard would be recognized in the new park. It is not known if the buoy and bell would remain in place. It was suggested the range light could be moved into the park.

b) Waterfront Trust Lease

The three-year lease to tie the docks to the bulkhead for the amount of \$5,000 annually was signed.

c) Dredging

The dredging of the mouth of the river will be delayed until next fall. This will allow time to complete the permitting for the dredging of the area outside of the Federal channel. Adam Armstrong and Jay Lesynski will assist Paul Hogg with the permitting, which should be coordinated with Salisbury.

d) Public Relations/Community Outreach/Marketing

The revisions to the website will be completed during the off season.

5. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- He met with the City's procurement officer. He will be able to accept the Port Security Grant for the new SAFE boat.
- Four lines to the *Captains Lady* were untied one night by vandals. The area will be monitored. It might be advisable to add a camera in this location.
- On October 27 he will meet with the Coast Guard, Salisbury Harbormaster, Environmental Police and the Fire Department to review the past season.
- He met with the State about the completion of the paving at Cashman Park.
- He will notify the marinas that the upcoming weekend will be the last one the pump out boat will be in operation.
- The season was improved in terms of kayak safety. He will provide data for the next meeting.

6. Other Business

a) Vacancy

The open position on the Commission has not yet been advertised but should be shortly. Applicants will be invited to submit letters of interest until the end of October and shall be asked to attend a meeting to discuss their interest.

7. Adjournment

Bob Dow moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Jamie Knapp seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote (Andrew Casson, yes; Bob Dow, yes; Justin Dutcher, yes; Jamie Knapp, yes; Adam Armstrong, yes; Ron Thurlow, yes; Jay Lesynski, yes).