

Newburyport Harbor Commission
City Council Chambers
January 10, 2013
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, Dan May, Bob Dow, Paul Dahn, Andrew Casson and Jamie Knapp. Justin Dutcher was absent.

2. Minutes

Paul Rooney moved to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2012 meeting as amended. Dan May seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. New Harbormaster's Facility

Two architects presented their conceptual plans for the Harbormaster's facility at the December 13, 2013 meeting and a third preliminary design should be received before the next meeting. The programs for the designs are based on the needs of the Harbormaster and transient boaters. Paul Dahn said he has met with Andy Port and Gary Calderwood to discuss the facility and he plans also to meet with Julia Godtfredsen and Tony Funari. He said the members of the NRA, the boating community and the Planning Department have expressed their support of the planned facility. When the Commission has selected a conceptual plan, it will be presented at a public hearing. Bill Harris commented that activities in the area of the building should be water-dependent and the facility should not be a multi-use one. Bob Dow said the facility would focus on the operations of the Harbormaster and the needs of the boating public. It might house restrooms and showers, a washer and dryer, a meeting room, a storage area and an area for Chamber of Commerce literature.

4. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- he received a copy of the abutter notification for the watersheet application from Bill Decie.
- he has been working with Andrew Casson on the proposed budget, which is due no later than February 9. A draft of the budget will be sent to members so that it might be reviewed and discussed before it is submitted. A special meeting will be held for this purpose before the deadline for submission.
- the new docks being built by Captain's Fishing Parties to replace those that had been owned by George Hilton are almost complete. Captain's Fishing Parties will operate whale-watching excursions for the one year that remained on the lease with the *Prince of Whales*. The vessel would not be used for fishing trips, but would be used for sight seeing cruises and weddings in addition to the whale watches.

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- he obtained an estimate of \$50 per square foot for new docks for the Transportation Dock, which would amount to approximately \$22,000 per section. The total expense would be close to what was spent for the docks at the Fish Pier. The new docks would be installed at the end of the lease with Captain's Fishing Parties for the *Captain's Lady III*.
- he is in the process of updating the database. The excise tax bill will be sent out in February and the Waterways permits will be sent out in March. He expects to take 60 cases to court.
- the public has been alerted through the *Daily News* that 30 crane mats being used for the jetty project were lost and might be floating. The project is to be completed by March 31 and is on schedule.
- he and his assistants have been attending harbormaster training sessions on Tuesday evenings.
- he would like to obtain new lifeguard stands. Steel stands are preferable because the wooden ones are often set on fire. Surplus stands might be available from the Salisbury State Reservation. Dan May will look into the possibility of obtaining excess galvanized steel from the Coast Guard.
- funding for the repair of the bulkhead is inadequate for the desired scope of work. It would be best to do the work in stages in order to be considered for additional funding from the Seaport Advisory Council. The main problems are below the sheeting and with oxidation around the weep holes, but nothing catastrophic should happen in the next five years. It must be decided if the best use of the funds is to make repairs to the bulkhead or to replace it section by section. Brad Duffin said the work should not interfere with boating season, which runs between April 15 and October 15.
- the engineering work for the Cashman Park pier has been put out to bid.
- the boat belonging to the missing sailor might be auctioned if it is not claimed before April. Brad Duffin asked that a meeting with Marshall Howard be arranged.
- he has begun to work with the software for the mooring field and will start with 50 moorings to become familiar with the program.

5. General Business

Paul Rooney said he had invited representatives from the Newburyport Mothers' Club to tonight's meeting but none were able to attend. The club has been extremely supportive of the Coast Guard station.

Brad Duffin said the Coast Guard City website has been hacked into. Andrew Casson will contact Neil Bleicken about obtaining passwords.

6. Adjournment

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Andrew Casson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.