

Newburyport Harbor Commission
City Council Chambers
November 12, 2015
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Acting Chair Justin Dutcher called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:01 p.m. In attendance were Andrew Casson, Jamie Knapp, Justin Dutcher, Paul Dahn, Paul Rooney, Chris Kealey and Dan May. Harbormaster Paul Hogg was also in attendance.

2. Minutes

Paul Rooney moved to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2015 meeting. Jamie Knapp seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. Proposal for Cameras at Coast Guard Auxiliary Building on Plum Island

Jim Reid and Robert Bentley described their proposal to install two cameras on the Coast Guard Auxiliary building on Plum Island. They said they have installed 13 live-stream cameras around the city to promote the lifestyle of Newburyport. They said the proposed cameras would benefit the Commission by providing a recording of any incidents that might take place on the river and would benefit the community as a whole by drawing visitors to Newburyport. They would provide, mount and maintain the cameras. They had previously asked that the Commission supply Internet access for the cameras but have withdrawn that request.

The Commission members expressed concern about setting a precedent for the use of a public building by a private entity and about incurring any legal liability from the use of the cameras. They wish to receive a written proposal for review by the City Solicitor and letters of support from the Police Department and the Coast Guard. The City owns the building and would be the entity to enter into a contract with Newburyport.com. Paul Hogg pointed out a \$1.8 million grant was recently received for the installation of five to eight cameras at the office, the mouth of the river and Cashman Park.

4. Harbormaster and Transient Boaters' Facility Update

Geordie Vining said six bids were received for the construction of the facility. The lowest was \$200,000 over the estimate. Winter conditions were cited as one reason the proposals might have been so high. Some contractors did not bid on the project due to the time frame.

The design team is working to change the plans to reduce the cost of the facility. They wish to rebid the project and award a contract within the budget that had been established. They wish to retain as much of the core function as much as possible and to remove the elements that are peripheral to the core. Changing the roof material from metal to shingle would save \$20,000. Additional savings would be realized through a change in the decking material from tropical hardwood to PVC and the simplification of the outdoor plaza. A connection to the Rail Trail would be eliminated and the road would not be moved. These changes would eliminate the need to move the curbing and would reduce the amount of brickwork. The proposed planting beds would not be constructed, new lighting would not be installed and new picnic tables would not be acquired. The number of public toilets would

be reduced. Throughout the interior the materials would be changed and simplified. The revised plans would be put out to bid in the beginning of January, with the goal of awarding the contract in February and work beginning in March.

5. Capital Expenses for Long-term Strategic Plan

The list of capital expenses was updated based on the discussion at the previous meeting. Terms were added for the items on the list. The boats might need to be replaced in ten years and the engines in five. Hoists would be needed soon, as would a new ticket booth at Cashman Park. Andrew Casson will arrange for a light to be installed on the flagpole. Jamie Knapp will revise the list and recirculate it. The long-term maintenance of the Harbormaster's facility will be handled separately.

6. Subcommittee Reports

Budget and Finance Committee

None.

Regulations, Safety and Moorings

None.

Coast Guard City Liaison and Community Outreach Committee

Paul Rooney has asked Mayor Holaday for a letter of support for the renewal of the Coast Guard City designation. Jamie Knapp will coordinate the provision of cookies at the Station by the Newburyport Mothers and Families Club.

7. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- the docks have been taken out of the water and are being stored in a new location on NRA property.
- the northbound lane on the Whittier Bridge has been opened to traffic.
- the Fire Department has acquired a new boat from the Coast Guard at no cost.
- excise tax bills have been sent out.
- he is a member of the hiring committee for the new City Marshall.
- he assisted with the filming of a movie on Plum Island.

8. General Discussion

Andrew Casson reported on the meeting of the Ad Hoc Central Waterfront Committee. The NRA, as owner of the submerged tidelands, wishes to be a part of the discussion on revenue sharing. Councilor Cronin said there is no need to store the floats on the central waterfront.

Chris Kealey suggest that more information be added to the Harbormaster's website. The item will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the December meeting.

9. Adjournment

Paul Rooney moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Paul Dahn seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission will take place on Thursday, December 10.