

Newburyport Harbor Commission
City Council Chambers
November 13, 2014
Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. Minutes

Andrew Casson moved to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2014 meeting as submitted. Paul Rooney seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Recognition of Greater Newburyport Mothers and Families Club

Paul Rooney thanked Kristen Jackman and Heather Jones of the Greater Newburyport Mothers and Families Club for their organization's support of the city and the Station Merrimack River. He read a proclamation from Mayor Holaday to the club.

4. Review of Past Resumes for Open Harbor Commissioner Position

Jamie Knapp was absent due to a family illness. He will circulate the resumes submitted for the most recent vacancy and will place an advertisement in the *Daily News*.

5. Subcommittee Reports

Budget and Finance Committee

Andrew Casson said he is working through the budget process and will circulate a draft budget to the Commission members before it is submitted to the Mayor.

Regulations, Safety and Moorings Committee

Bob Dow said Jamie Knapp intends to review the rate structures in other communities. He summarized the history of the rates in Newburyport. A significant increase took place in 1993 because the rates were far below market value and had changed for many years. The budget had not included a line item for capital improvements before that time. The last time the rates were adjusted was in 2005. It would be preferable to make small increases on a regular basis rather than infrequent large jumps.

The current rates for moorings and waterways permits are below average and those for the central waterfront docks are significantly lower than in other communities. In many areas the rate is \$2 to \$3 per foot, with an additional charge for power and water.

Paul Hogg said the current system is confusing and should be updated. He will contact the Harbormasters Association to obtain the rate structures of other communities.

The committee will make a recommendation on the rate schedule at a future meeting.

Coast Guard City Liaison and Community Outreach Committee

No report.

6. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- he is beginning to update the database in preparation for the 2015 season.
- all of the docks and boats have been taken out for the season and all of the bathrooms been winterized.
- the installation of brackets on the bulkhead made it possible to remove the strongarms, which will increase their lifespan.
- the Northshore Harbormasters Association is beginning its Tuesday night training program.
- there are three fishing boats in the embayment. Their future is uncertain, as the Federal government plans to shut down cod fishing for six months.
- a new hoist, electrical box and rail were installed at the fish pier. The area is now well lit and the excess gear has been removed.
- the Department of Revenue certified the \$334,387 of retained earnings.
- the City will provide reimbursement in the amount of \$850 for the lifeguards during the Clambake but will not compensate for lost parking revenue.
- he has been working with the Waterfront Trust on ways to prevent a reoccurrence of damage to the pilings at the Transportation Dock that was caused by the tour boats.
- the work on the pier at Cashman Park is scheduled to begin in March.

7. General Discussion

Dan May said the Coast Guard has approved a light for the end of the south jetty but the installation will not take place until the work on the jetty has been completed. The package for the current work on the north jetty does not include the south jetty. Local officials are seeking funds for the completion of the work on the south jetty.

Bob Dow asked if the mooring field management software that had been presented at a past meeting was being considered. Paul Hogg responded that while he liked certain elements of that system, other aspects would have been more cumbersome to use and his current system works well.

The subcommittee assignments should be reviewed at a future meeting.

Bob Dow recommended that approved watersheet applications be reviewed for compliance.

Bob Dow asked if the hurricane evacuation plan should be evaluated. Paul Hogg will set up a link on the website to the hurricane plan for boaters.

Paul Dahn asked if the movement of sand on Plum Island has impacted navigation. Paul Hogg responded he has not found this to be the case, but added the Army Corp. is considering adding funds for dredging on the north side of the channel to the jetty project budget.

8. Adjournment

Paul Rooney moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Andrew Casson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.