

**Newburyport Harbor Commission**  
Harbormaster's Facility  
November 2, 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 and Justin Dutcher. Chris Charos and George Sass were absent. Harbormaster Paul Hogg was also in attendance.

**2. Minutes**

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the July 13 and October 5 meetings. Adam Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

**3. Committee Reports**

**a) Coast Guard City**

The presentation of the Cashman award could be scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 20, Monday Nov. 21 or Monday, Dec. 12. The presentation could be scheduled for the afternoon, with a reporter and dignitaries being present. A gathering with the Coasties and Harbor Commission would take place in the evening. Ron Thurlow obtained prices from the Starboard Galley. The plaque has been received, but there has been difficulty obtaining the granite. Jay Lesynski said he has granite and will look into having it cut.

**b) Marketing**

Justin Dutcher read an email from George Sass, who is preparing a press release for the Cashman Award. He is also preparing a standardized press release about the Harbor Commission and the Harbormaster's Department that would be used for marketing purposes. He proposed the publication of articles on boating safety to educate the public.

**c) Docks, Moorings and Infrastructure**

Paul Hogg submitted a draft 10A permit to the Conservation Agent for review. He used Google Earth to obtain photographs and specifications of the docks and gangways in the river and has started a file on each property. The next step would be to determine the fee and obtain a City Council sponsor.

**d) Public Safety and Regulations**

The Health Department did not post a recent CSO event. Paul Hogg put up signs himself at the Joppa ramp and Cashman Park. He said the Health Department is to install permanent signs with a QR code, but he does not know the status of that project. The signs are to be standardized to be consistent in every community.

**e) Finance**

No update.

#### **4. Harbormaster's Report**

Paul Hogg reported that:

- The central waterfront docks have been removed.
- The State is scheduled to pave and paint the lot at Cashman Park on November 14.
- He met with the Army Corp about two unknown objects that were found in the river during the survey. TowBoatUS will dive to determine the nature of the objects.
- He was not invited to the ribbon cutting ceremony for the dredging project, but Senator Tarr recognized him at the event.
- The dredging of the nine-foot channel should be completed by November 8 and the large dredge is to begin the next day.
- A post-season meeting will take place with the Coast Guard on November 14.
- Three reappointments and three new appointments have been made for the department.
- A touch-a-boat event recently took place.

#### **5. General Discussion**

##### **a) Temporary Power Funding**

Andrew Casson said the City presented to City Council a request to withdraw \$20,000 from the department's account for the temporary relocation of the transformer. The Commission members had agreed to contribute to the cost, but the transfer was done without Paul Hogg's authorization. At the time of the request, City Councilors were in the process of debating the economic feasibility of expanding the park. The City is also contemplating the construction of a youth services facility and a new fire station, but would not be able to fund all of these projects. The money should not have been withdrawn for the transformer until the park plans are firm.

##### **b) Short and Long-Term Goals**

The Commission members listed their short and long-term goals. The items will be discussed in more detail at an upcoming meeting.

Short Term:

Ron Thurlow - spring water safety fair, CSO notification process.

Jamie Knapp - annual meetings with stakeholders.

Justin Dutcher - website

Long Term:

Ron Thurlow - federal channel safety optimization, design and inspection criteria for all docks and moorings in the river.

Jamie Knapp - fish pier and embayment.

Justin Dutcher – operating and managing the channel.

Adam Armstrong - maintenance dredging.

Andrew Casson – marketing Newburyport as a boating destination.

#### **6. Adjournment**

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. Justin Dutcher seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Newburyport Harbor Commission  
November 2, 2022