

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Online Meeting
November 3, 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 October 6, 2021, meeting. Ron Thurlow 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).

3. Open Position

Jamie Knapp introduced two candidates who responded to the notice in the *Daily News* for the open position on the Commission. Norm Boucher said he has lived in Newburyport since 1968 and he understands the river well. After retiring from an engineering position, he started a charter boat business. He said the city has given him a lot and he wants to do something in return. Rich Marino said he has been a boater for 30 years and is semi-retired. He is the co-owner of a boating supply business located in Newburyport.

Other interested candidates will be interviewed at the December meeting, which will be held at the Harbormaster's facility. A candidate will be selected during an executive session at the beginning of next year.

4. Committee Reports

a) Coast Guard City

Andrew Casson met with Geordie Vining on the Rail Trail to discuss the location of a stone with a plaque that would commemorate the Station Merrimack River as the recipient of the George Cashman Award for 2020. Justin Dutcher said an appropriate location might be the grass area adjacent to an existing sign about the station. Jamie Knapp said another suitable location would be near the dories behind the Starboard Galley.

The Coast Guard City renewal application has been received and will be reviewed in December.

Bob Dow sent photographs to the DPS of the Astoria Coast Guard City sign, the Newburyport historic seaport sign and the Custom House Maritime Museum Welcome Center sign. Tony Funari replied that he would assist with the effort to install a Coast Guard City sign on the highway.

b) Dredging

The subcommittee will meet with Andy Port and Geordie Vining to begin the permitting process for the dredging of the area outside the federal channel. The Salisbury Harbormaster

and a member of the Salisbury Harbor Commission should be asked to participate in any meetings.

c) Finance

Justin Dutcher will meet with Paul Hogg to prepare a report. The raise for the Harbormaster passed the City Council Budget and Finance subcommittee.

d) Public Relations/Community Outreach/Marketing

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

5. Market Landing Park

The Ad Hoc Central Waterfront Committee met shortly after the October 6 Harbor Commission meeting. Its members are in agreement with the concerns of the Harbor Commission regarding the size of the plaza for the storage of the docks and its ability to accommodate the crane. The Harbor Commission will be involved in the final design of the park. Andrew Casson said he was of the opinion that the issue of dock storage had been resolved with the Waterfront Trust, and he was therefore surprised when a Trustee voiced his preference at the Ad Hoc Committee meeting for the storage of the docks at Cashman Park. The Ad Hoc Committee is in support of the storage of the docks on the central waterfront.

6. Other Business

Ron Thurlow conducted a kayak safety class on October 21. Paul Hogg said the number of incidents this summer was reduced and the safety measures that were put in place seem to have been effective. Other actions that could be undertaken are the production of a trifold brochure, a link on the Commission's website to the material covered in the safety class and signage at the ramps. The ramp near the Black Cow is a popular yet dangerous launch area. Consideration might be given to the placement of signage on Waterfront Trust property. The ramp is owned by New England Development.

7. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- the central waterfront docks were removed on November 2. He will meet Andy Port on site to measure the area needed in the new park for the storage of the docks and the crane. The docks should not be placed more than three high.
- The Cashman Park docks are to be removed on November 4.
- He is beginning to work on the excise tax bills, which will be sent out in the next few weeks.
- The camera was useful during the Coast Guard rescue of a kite sailor on a stormy day.
- The #2 channel marker came off of its station. The Coast Guard will be notifying boaters until it can be put back in place.
- He will travel to Seattle on December 7 to meet with a sales representative about the new boat.

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8. Adjournment

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Bob Dow 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).