

**Newburyport Harbor Commission**  
Harbormaster's Facility  
November 9, 2017  
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, Jamie Knapp, Adam Armstrong, Bob Dow, Justin Dutcher, Jay Lesynski and Chris Kealey. Dan May was absent.

**2. Minutes**

Justin Dutcher moved to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2017 meeting as submitted. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2017 meeting as submitted. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**3. Open Discussion**

**House Float Ordinance**

Scott Schwartz, 386R Merrimac Street, attended the meeting to discuss his concerns about the house floats at Yankee Landing Marina. He said the house floats are intrusive and in violation of the marina's Chapter 91 license. The Commission members explained they are concerned about many issues surrounding the house floats, including the lack of building, electrical, fire, safety and plumbing inspections, and are working to develop a house float ordinance. DEP is to inform both the Yankee Landing Marina and the Newburyport Harbor Marina that they are in violation of their Chapter 91 permits because of the house floats. A meeting between the harbormaster and members of other boards and departments, such as planning, building, zoning, fire and conservation, that would have an interest in a house float ordinance was put on hold due to the election.

**Joppa Boat Ramp**

Jamie Knapp drafted a letter to the Parks Commission expressing the Harbor Commission's opposition to a proposal to reduce the width of the ramp at Joppa Park. Concerns about safety will be added to the letter. Paul Hogg intends to install signage stating the trailering of motorized vessels is prohibited.

**Group Mooring Permit**

Jamie Knapp will draft a group-mooring permit for review at the next meeting.

**4. Long-term Planning**

Priority is being given to the development of the house float ordinance. Focus must also be placed on dredging. Obstacles to dredging are that it has become privatized and funding has not been available. Paul Hogg will be asked to create a list of incidences that have occurred due to the dangerous conditions at the mouth of the river. This would help persuade the Army Corp and State officials that the dredging is necessary for safety reasons. The members

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discussed the possibility leasing the boat from the Army Corp and assembling a crew. The dredging of the mouth had previously been a part of a regular rotation. While this type of service dredging no longer takes place, it would be important for the dredging to be done on a regular basis. Other communities on the river could be asked to support the effort.

**5. Harbormaster's Report**

Paul Hogg reported:

- the docks were removed on November 2 and 3.
- the restrooms are in the process of being winterized.
- the excise tax bills have been sent out. The new computer system has worked well.
- he met with the Chamber of Commerce about a potential of a large Viking longship, the *Draken*, coming to the city for the Fourth of July next summer.
- he met with Mark Cutter and Jack Bailey about lighting at the Whittier Bridge. Standard Coast Guard lighting will be used. Monitoring of boat traffic around the new pier structure is continuing.
- on October 15 a 16-foot skiff was rescued.
- a "meet and greet" for new residents was held on October 19 at the senior center.
- during the October 30 storm the patrol boats were moved to the embayment for protection. The *Lisa Ann* broke free of its mooring during the storm. It was saved at the railroad trestle bridge.
- he will be hosting the annual meeting of the Massachusetts shellfish officers in December. A tour of the Plum Island purification plant will be a part of the event.

**6. General Business**

- Jay Lesynski will test for stray electrical currents while the docks are out of the river and then again when they have been put back in and the power has been reconnected.
- The members discussed the necessity of replacing the outboard engine.
- The members would like the harbormaster to inform them by text or email when an event such as a rescue has occurred in the river.

**7. Public Comment**

None

**8. Adjournment**

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Chris Kealey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission will take place on Thursday, December 14, 2017.