

Newburyport Harbor Commission
City Hall Conference Room
December 13, 2012
Minutes

1. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission was called to order by Chair Brad Duffin at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Brad Duffin, Paul Rooney, Steve Hines, Dan May, Justin Dutcher and Bob Dow. Paul Dahn, Andrew Casson and Jamie Knapp were absent.

2. Minutes

Paul Rooney moved to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2012 meeting as amended. Justin Dutcher seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Watersheet Application

Bob Dow reviewed the watersheet application procedure. Bill Decie appeared for the applicant. He said the watersheet application was originally filed in 1999 but the work was never done. Mr. Decie appeared before the Commission again in 2003 and 2008. The previous property owner eventually installed one 15-foot float, although two were permitted. The water in the area of the float is very shallow. The new owner of the property has a 34-foot boat and wishes install a 24-foot landing float with two 20-foot docking floats. The moorings are in place and would be relocated. Mr. Decie said the floats are located far from the small craft navigation zone, the federal channel is on the opposite side of the river in this location and the nearest float is approximately 500 feet away. Justin Dutcher moved to approve the watersheet application. Paul Rooney seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. New Harbormaster's Facility

Brad Duffin said Newburyport should have a boaters' facility that would bring the city in line with its competitors on the North Shore. The first step in the process would be for the Commission members to agree on a concept and then put the project out to bid. Two architects presented their conceptual plans for a new Harbormaster's facility.

Craig Douglas said his goal was to create a structure that would not interrupt the view of the river. He presented his plans for a 900 square-foot, single-story, shingle-style structure with a stone foundation and one and a half story tower. The Harbormaster's office would be located in the tower to provide him with a view of the river. Mr. Douglas said the ADA allows for duplicated use, making it possible for the Harbormaster to have a private office on the second floor and a business office on the first floor. The first floor would also house a locker room, restrooms, a ticket booth and washer and dryer. Two showers would be accessed from the building's exterior. Mr. Douglas estimated the structure would cost \$300,000. He will prepare a construction budget.

Dave Keery said his structure would create a gateway between the land and the river. The 1,200 square-foot structure would be comprised of four sections with a circular welcoming space in its center. Mr. Keery said he based his concept on old photographs of the waterfront. The Harbormaster's office would be located on the second story. The first floor would include office space for other staff members, restrooms, lockers, showers and a display area. Mr. Keery said the structure would be 27-feet high at its tallest section and would cost approximately \$250 per square feet to construct.

5. Committee Assignments

Bob Dow moved to approve the following committee assignments:

- Regulations, Safety and Moorings - Jamie Knapp, Bob Dow and Paul Rooney
- Coast Guard City Liaison and Community Outreach - Paul Rooney, Paul Dahn and Dan May
- Long-range Planning - Steve Hines, Dan May and Jamie Knapp
- Finance - Andrew Casson, Justin Dutcher and Steve Hines

Paul Rooney seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg was not able to attend the meeting and submitted a report electronically to the Commission members. Brad Duffin said a missing man's boat was moved to Cashman Park, even though the boat had been moored in Salisbury waters. The man's dinghy was launched from Cashman Park. The Salisbury Police Department is handling the matter and the boat should be moved to a private facility.

Brad Duffin said Paul Hogg has been working with the Waterfront Trust to replace the docks at the Transportation Dock that had been owned by George Hilton and were destroyed during the storm. Captain's Fishing Parties would bring docks from Plum Island to be placed in front of the Transportation Dock for the remainder of the term of the lease for the *Prince of Whales*. The lease is set to expire at the end of 2013. The placement of the docks would provide a temporary solution until City docks could be added at the Transportation Dock.

7. General Business

Paul Rooney said he met earlier in the month with the Marshfield Harbormaster, who was recently awarded a \$320,000 grant for a new safe boat. He volunteered to help Paul Hogg write a grant for a safe boat.

Paul Rooney said the Newburyport Mothers' Club has provided refreshments every Saturday since May to the Station Merrimack River and the station has given two tours for the club. The club has waived its membership fees for families at the station. Kelly Marshall will be asked to attend the next meeting in order to be thanked and to be encouraged to continue the relationship.

Paul Rooney said he has contacted Ann Ormond at the Chamber of Commerce about vendors providing discounts to military members.

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Paul Rooney said he and Dan May have both spoken to Mayor Holaday about establishing a JROTC program for the High School. Dan May said the Mayor believes she would be able to create a funding stream to sponsor the program. The Coast Guard would be approached about running the program.

8. Adjournment

Paul Rooney moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Justin Dutcher seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.