

## **Newburyport Harbor Commission**

Harbormaster's Facility

January 2, 2019

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, Adam Armstrong, Bob Dow, Jamie Knapp, Ron Thurlow, Chris Kealey, Justin Dutcher and Jay Lesynski. Dan May was absent.

### **2. Minutes**

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2018, minutes as submitted. Justin Dutcher seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2018, minutes as amended. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **3. Action Committees**

#### **Dredging**

Mayor Holaday travelled to Washington in December, but things were on hold due to the passing of George H. W. Bush. The Commission members will assemble a package of information for her.

#### **Coast Guard City**

Andrew Casson contacted the Senior Chief at the Coast Guard, asking if the City or Commission could be of assistance during the government shutdown. The Senior Chief is interested in becoming more engaged with the Coast Guard City committee and suggested a collaboration with the Coast Guard Auxiliary might be beneficial.

#### **Public Relations/Community Outreach**

Andrew Casson reported that George Sass, former editor of Yachting Magazine, would be willing to take part in a working session with the action committee. Jay Stockmann of Hinckley Yachts is also interested in becoming more involved with the community. Both men have worked on marketing campaigns for marinas.

### **4. Public Comment**

Chris Copson, Marine Inspector/Port State Control Officer for the Coast Guard, attended the meeting to discuss the proposed house float ordinance. The Coast Guard wishes to develop a policy, which has proven to be challenging because there are so many variables. Commercial vessels with at least 12 passengers must obtain a certificate from the Coast Guard. Vessels must meet certain standards in order to obtain the certificate. Vessels that do not get underway are not of concern to the Coast Guard. A distinction has not been made between recreational and commercial vessels in the draft house float ordinance. Paul Hogg will forward the draft ordinance and examples of situations he might encounter in order that input

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from the Coast Guard might be obtained. The Coast Guard's certification requirements could be referenced by the Harbor Commission.

**5. Attendance**

The attendance record of the past year was reviewed. The unwritten policy has been that a member who had missed more than two meetings will be asked about his continued interest in serving on the Commission.

**6. Harbormaster's Report**

Paul Hogg reported:

- The new pump out boat has arrived and has been winterized. The warranty will start in the spring.
- He has spoken with members of the Coast Guard, who are on minimal duty due to the government shutdown.
- He was begun working on the FY20 budget.
- He will attend Mass. Municipal Association annual training in Boston on January 17.
- He will meet on January 3 with Mayor Holaday, Nancy London, members of the health department and representatives from the Gulf of Maine Institute about the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) activations. The bathing areas are currently tested on a regular basis but it might be a good idea to test upriver, where the water does not clear out as quickly. Notifications could be posted at marinas.

**7. Budget**

Paul Hogg distributed an overview of the budget process. The narratives are due on January 25 and the draft budget must be submitted to City Council by May 13. Justin Dutcher presented a review of financial information between 2008 – 2018. The figures showed that expenses have gotten steadier over the years.

**8. Other Business**

Jay Lesynski will test the water for stray currents. A test at this time of year, while no boats are in the water, would be used for a baseline.

**9. Adjournment**

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. Bob seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.