

**Newburyport Harbor Commission**  
Harbormaster's Facility  
December 5, 2018 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 and Justin Dutcher. Dan May and Jay Lesynski were absent.

**2. Minutes**

The approval of the minutes of the November 7 meeting was tabled.

**3. House Float Ordinance**

The draft house float ordinance was submitted to City Council and was referred to the public safety subcommittee. No action has yet been taken on it. The Commission members would like it to be approved before the beginning of the 2019 boating season.

**4. Waterfront Trust Discussion**

Justin Dutcher, Bob Dow and Paul Hogg met with Wilbur Shenk and Sean Bradley of the Waterfront Trust to discuss the future ownership of the submerged tidelands. The Trustees agreed the submerged tidelands should be jointly owned by the City and the Waterfront Trust. They also agreed a storage area for the docks should be included in the plans to expand the park. The Harbor Commission supports the Trust retaining the income it now receives from the tour boats but has no interest in sharing the revenue from the recreational boats. The members have been satisfied with the way in which the waterfront has been operated and see no reason to change it. They would be agreeable to entering into a lease agreement with the Waterfront Trust. The Harbormaster and Harbor Commission would be willing to manage the entire central waterfront without charging a fee to the Waterfront Trust. An RFP would be issued for the tour boats if necessary. The draft lease from 2013 should be reviewed as a first step and the two subcommittees should continue meeting.

**5. Subcommittee Assignments**

After a lengthy discussion, the Commission members decided that action committees would replace the current subcommittees. The priority items for the Commission are dredging, boating tourism and Coast Guard City activities. It would not be necessary to have a finance subcommittee and the regulations could be reviewed as necessary by the members as a whole. The following action committee assignments were made:

Dredging: Adam Armstrong, Jamie Knapp, Jay Lesynski

Public Relations/Community Outreach: Chris Kealey, Justin Dutcher

Coast Guard City: Ron Thurlow, Dan May, Chris Kealey

Waterfront Trust: Bob Dow, Justin Dutcher

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**6. Harbormaster's Report**

Paul Hogg submitted a written report that included the following items:

- the excise tax bills have been issued and payments have begun coming in.
- the database, waterways permits and mooring permits have updated for the 2019 season.
- he will attend a meeting of the Mass. Shellfish Officer Association in Hingham on December 13 for annual credits and updates on aquaculture and scallop dredging.
- he is waiting to be notified by the State on the amount of funding that will be received for the parking lot at Cashman Park.
- he has been forwarding to the Commission members information on upstream sewerage releases as he receives it.

**7. Adjournment**

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Justin Dutcher seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.