

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Harbormaster's Facility
December 6, 2023
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Jamie Knapp called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Chris Charos, Bob Dow, Jamie Knapp, Justin Dutcher, Jay Lesynski, Ron Thurlow and George Sass. Adam Armstrong and Andrew Casson were absent. Harbormaster Paul Hogg was also in attendance.

2. Minutes

Bob Dow moved to approve the minutes of the November 1 meeting. Chris Charos seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. Review of Watersheet and 10A Applications

2 Spofford Street

The applicant has not yet submitted the required information.

4. Committee Reports

a) Coast Guard City

Jamie Knapp said he requested a meeting with the Mayor to discuss the Commission's role regarding the Coast Guard City designation. The Mayor did not think a meeting was necessary. He said he appreciates the work the Commission has done and he would like it to continue. Former Commission member Dan May is now on the board of the Custom House. Jamie Knapp will ask for the Commission to be added to the agenda of an upcoming Custom House board meeting.

Ron Thurlow said the Custom House is likely to tackle smaller roles in supporting the Coast Guard. He will circulate a draft action plan. He would like the members to develop a list of eight actions that would support the Coast Guard and decide on four that could be implemented. Some of these could be actions for which the City would be asked to be responsible, such as providing free participation for Station personnel at Newburyport Adult Education classes.

b) Moorings, Dock and Infrastructure

Jamie Knapp will circulate the draft 10A permit. Jim McCauley agreed to be the City Council sponsor.

c) Public Safety and Regulations

The Commission members will begin to review the Harbor Management Plan during a portion of each meeting. The next kayak safety class will take place in February. Jamie Knapp said issues with kayakers have dropped off dramatically since the classes began.

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d) Finance

Funds were received from Salisbury for its share of the cost of the new pump-out station.

e) Marketing

No report.

5. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- He attended an end-of-the season meeting with the Coast Guard. He recommended some training sessions that could be held in the spring. There is a new operations manager at the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard nationwide is reducing its staff.
- Boaters who were duck hunting in the marsh were rescued today.
- The work on the bulkhead in the embayment is 72% complete. A new hammer was obtained and work is now progressing more quickly. It is expected the docks will be taken out in the new two weeks.
- Andy Port informed him National Grid might be late in installing the transformers, which would delay the availability of power on the docks.
- Work being done on the train bridge is largely complete.
- Operations were suspended at the shellfish purification plant on November 22. The salt-water well was compromised due to erosion. Clams will not be accepted until further notice.
- The new fireboat was approved.
- The State Police will take over the responsibility for the cameras.

6. Adjournment

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was approved.