

Newburyport Harbor Commission
City Council Chambers
December 8, 2011
Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. Minutes

Bob Dow moved to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2010 meeting as submitted. Paul Rooney seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- he has been working to obtain “keep off” signs for the stored docks and a new sign for the top of his building.
- the Plum Island restrooms have been closed and winterized.
- basic maintenance is being done on the boat under the warranty. The warranty will expire in November 2012.
- he has collected \$3,106 in past-due excise taxes.
- he been working to clear up citations before going to court. There are approximately 45 remaining citations.
- he is attending a harbormaster training class one time per week.
- the gangway at 55th Street on Plum Island has been raised for the winter.
- the State will be making repairs to the Joppa Park boat ramp next week.
- a non-profit educational program in which 180 students took part last year has outgrown the facilities at Lowell's Boat Shop. The instructor plans to move the classes to Maudslay State Park and would like to have several moorings and one float in the river. Brad Duffin said the Harbor Commission would be able to provide a letter of support, but only after the instructor has obtained permission to use the boathouse and the land adjacent to the river and has submitted a watersheet application.

4. Coast Guard City Celebration

Commission members discussed plans to celebrate the potential designation as a Coast Guard City with the mayor's assistant, Lois Honegger. The celebration would take place on August 4, which is the second Saturday of Yankee Homecoming and is the birthday of the Coast Guard. The City will learn after the first of the year if it has been awarded the designation. Paul Rooney said it would be best to make the arrangements soon for the Coast Guard Band and for large Coast Guard boats. He suggested that after the City has received the designation the Mayor write a letter to VIPs, including the Commandant and members of Congress. The band might be incorporated into the Yankee Homecoming

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parade. The Mayor has spoken to politicians about attending a maritime ball. Brad Duffin said the ball should focus on the Coast Guard. The ball might be held under a tent behind the Custom House and a VIP reception might be held inside the museum, where a special exhibit might be on display. Ms. Honegger suggested the Yankee Homecoming chair be contacted as soon as possible. An events planner might be hired or Ann Ormond might be asked to work on the event. Brad Duffin said this is a City celebration and the Harbor Commission should not be expected to take the lead. He will coordinate efforts with Ann Ormond and Ms. Honegger. He asked Paul Rooney to gather information on the types of celebrations that have taken place in other cities, including Rockland. Decisions about the big events, which are the presentation and the ball, must be made first, along with plans for participation in the parade. The City would have to remain active, as it must be recertified every five years. The support activities that were previously discussed must be pursued.

5. Adjournment

Paul Rooney moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Neil Bleicken seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.