

Newburyport Harbor Commission
City Hall Conference Room
December 8, 2016
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 Bob Dow, Andrew Casson, Justin Dutcher, Paul Rooney, Dan May and Chris Kealey. Jamie Knapp and Paul Dahn were absent.

2. Minutes

Justin Dutcher moved to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2016 meeting as submitted. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Water sheet Application

Andrew Casson outlined the procedure for reviewing water sheet applications. Proposals must not intrude into the Federal Channel or the Small Craft Navigation Zone, must address any constraints of the waterway posed by narrowness, shallowness, severity of current and visual access to and from the site, must demonstrate that the proposal would not cause undue congestion or hazard on the waterway as related to safe navigation and must indicate the effect the proposal would have on the navigation of vessels to and from neighboring properties.

Sarah Bellino represented the Carr Island Marina. The applicant is proposing to install two 6' x 25' floats and a 4' x 32' gangway. The new floats would not intrude into the Federal Channel. Ms. Bellino indicated the floats would be used for transient boaters.

A final determination from the Army Corp. has not yet been received. The Commission would like Paul Hogg to comment on the proposal. Bob Dow moved to continue the hearing to the January 12 meeting. Paul Rooney seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Interviews for Commission Vacancy

Two applicants met with the members to discuss their qualifications to fill the vacancy on the Commission. Adam Armstrong said he has lived in Newburyport for 13 years and has two sons. He keeps his boat at the Boat Basin and is interested in safety and the protection of the waterfront. Kevin Bannigan has lived in the city for 29 years. He was on the board of the Maritime Museum for seven years and was a member of the Boston Yacht Club in Marblehead from 1984 to 2010. Additional applicants will be interviewed at the next meeting. Applicants should have experience with boating and working with municipal government and must have time available to devote to the work of the Commission.

5. Subcommittee Reports

Budget and Finance Committee

A discussion of the budget will be on the agenda for the January 12 meeting.

Regulations, Safety and Moorings Committee

None

Coast Guard City Liaison and Community Outreach Committee

None

6. Review of Harbor Commission Member Positions

Subcommittee assignments will be made after the vacancy on the Commission has been filled.

7. General Discussion

Chris Kealey has begun working on a website for the Harbormaster's Department with the goal of having it completed before the public opening of the new facility. The Coast Guard City website should be updated.

8. Harbormaster's Report

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

- The boats and docks have been taken out of the water and have been winterized.
- Plans are being developed for an expanded park on the waterfront. He wishes to continue storing the docks in the NRA's east lot during the winter. It would be costly and time consuming to move them to Cashman Park.
- He will be collecting toys in his office as a part of the North Shore Harbormaster Association's contribution to Project Uplift.
- He wishes to thank everyone who participated in the ceremony to re-designate Newburyport as Coast Guard City.
- A commercial dive team from Smith Marine will conduct a subsurface inspection of the railroad bridge located by the Gillis Bridge.
- He has begun the process to auction an abandoned sailboat being stored at Cashman Park.
- The new facility is scheduled to be completed before Christmas. The granite curbing has been installed and the railings and ramps are being worked on now.
- Details will conclude at Whittier Bridge on November 15 but safety trainings and inspections will continue.

9. Adjournment

Bob Dow moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. Dan May seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission will take place on Thursday, January 12, 2017.