

Newburyport Harbor Commission

Harbormaster's Facility

January 8, 2020

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Andrew Casson called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were Adam Armstrong, Andrew Casson, Bob Dow, Ron Thurlow, Justin Dutcher, Jay Lesynski, Chris Kealey and Jamie Knapp.

2. Minutes

Chris Kealy moved to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2019, meeting as amended. Justin Dutcher seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Ordinances and Fees

The Commission members discussed the changes that were made to the proposed rate structure since the December meeting. A distinction would not be made between rates for weekends and special events. Boats up to 12 feet would be in the same category, whether or not they are inflatable. The rate for dinghies up to 12 feet would be \$5 for up to three hours on weekdays and \$10 on weekends. No charge would be made for dinghies with Newburyport waterways permits. Stays of less than three hours would be charged an hourly rate rather than half of the day rate. A flat rate for a stay up to three hours would be \$10 for boats up to 20 feet, \$20 for boats 21 to 40 feet and \$30 for boats 41 to 60 feet for both weekdays and weekends.

The day rate would be \$3 per foot for boats under 50 feet, \$4 for boats between 51 and 100 feet and \$5 for boats over 101 feet on weekdays. During weekends and special events the rates would be \$4 per foot for boats under 50 feet, \$5 for boats between 51 and 100 feet and \$6 for boats over 101 feet.

Chris Kealy will assign sections of the ordinance for members to review for discussion at the next meeting.

4. Open Position

Mayor Holaday met with George Sass and agreed to appoint him to the Harbor Commission. The first reading for City Council should be January 13.

5. Action Committees

A) Dredging

Adam Armstrong attended an interesting program at the Senior Center about the movement of sand on Plum Island.

B) Public Relations/Community Outreach

Due to some technical difficulties, Colin Cody has not yet been able to produce the short videos he is working to create for the Harbor Commission's website.

C) Coast Guard City

Ron Thurlow met with Dan May and made a copy of the package from the last application cycle. This information will provide the basis for the next application. An outside party took over the domain name of the Coast Guard City website but has agreed to relinquish it. The content of the Coast Guard City site will be linked to the Harbor Commission site.

D) Waterfront Trust

In an effort to come to an agreement with the Waterfront Trust, Mayor Holaday has proposed that the Harbor Commission pay \$5,000 per year to tie the docks to the bulkhead. The Trust would continue to receive the income from the tour boats but would not receive a percentage of the transient boat income. Geordie Vining has prepared a draft lease that will be reviewed by the interested parties at a meeting that has yet to be scheduled. The term of five years is the longest that would be permitted under the Declaration of Public Trust. The Commission members were concerned that such a payment would impact the City's ability to obtain grant money to repair the bulkhead.

Ron Thurlow moved that the Harbor Commission would agree to enter into a five-year lease agreement with the Waterfront Trust through which the Harbor Commission would pay \$5,000 annually to tie the docks to the bulkhead and would oversee the management of the docks, with the Waterfront Trust retaining the income from the tour boats with the condition that this action would not threaten the ability of the City to obtain future grants for the maintenance of the bulkhead. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg submitted a written report that stated:

- he has started working with the Custom House Maritime Museum to schedule a visit from a tall ship in the spring.
- he received a grant from NOAH for an ice machine for the fish pier.
- he is organizing a fishing clinic for the early spring.
- he is working to obtain quotes to repair the damage the F/V Finlander 2 caused to the docks during a recent storm.
- the assistant harbormasters will soon be obtaining first aid, AED and CPR training if they are not already certified.
- he sent information to Mayor Holaday on the accomplishments of the department for the State of the City address.
- he is editing the data base in preparation for sending out the waterways permit renewal applications.

7. Adjournment

Justin Dutcher moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Chris Kealey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Harbor Commission will take place on Wednesday, February 5.