

Newburyport Harbor Commission
City Council Chambers
January 9, 2014
Minutes

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission was called to order by Chair Brad Duffin at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Brad Duffin, Bob Dow, Dan May, Paul Rooney and Jamie Knapp. Also in attendance was Harbormaster Paul Hogg.

2. Minutes

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2013 meeting as submitted. Paul Rooney seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Waterfront Trust Discussion

Jamie Knapp said he sent an email to Scott Sutherland of the Waterfront Trust stating the Commission voted at its December 17 meeting to recommend to the Mayor that it would be in the best interest of the city to keep the embayment open to transient boaters between April 15 and October 15, while under the management of the Harbormaster. The members do not support the presence of a commercial enterprise in the embayment. Mr. Sutherland responded the subcommittees were established to develop a cooperative agreement on the operation of the waterfront as a whole, of which the embayment is one aspect. He added the two groups must agree on a plan to expand water-related activities to those not able to own boats. He requested the Commission set a date for a meeting to move the process forward if it wishes to keep the subcommittees in place for this purpose. Brad Duffin said the subcommittees were established to focus on the management of the Transportation Dock only. Mr. Knapp will respond to Mr. Sutherland that the Commission would be willing to continue the conversation about the Transportation Dock but will not address an expansion of the role of the Waterfront Trust in the embayment.

4. Transient Boaters' Facility Update

Bob Dow said a kick-off meeting was held on January 7 with the firm of Olson/Lewis and architect David Keery. The topics discussed included:

- management issues, such as scheduling and invoicing
- the planning of visits to similar facilities, such as in Marblehead or Barnstable
- the planning for utilities, which might involve obtaining an easement from New England Development
- the layout of the interior of the structure and spatial requirements
- the scheduling of a general meeting for public comment
- the project budget
- the location of the building and associated tradeoffs
- program elements
- the appearance of the structure and appropriate materials

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- the preservation of view corridors
- parking and vehicular and pedestrian circulation

5. Subcommittee Reports

Finance Committee

No report

Regulations, Safety and Moorings Committee

Jamie Knapp said the subcommittee recommends that rates not be increased at this time.

Coast Guard City Liaison and Community Outreach Committee

Paul Rooney said the Cashman Award was presented at the Station Merrimack on December 20. He said the event was well received by the community. The station has been grateful for the help it has received from the Newburyport Mothers Club, especially in the month of November. The Commander intends to send a letter to the *Daily News* expressing his appreciation. A boating safety course might again be held for the Mothers Club at the station in the summer and the Commission members might supply food for a cookout at that time. The Commission members also discussed inviting the president of the club to a meeting for a proclamation by the Mayor.

6. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- most of his time has been devoted to the plans for the new facility.
- the ice floes in the river have been significant this winter and a breaker is being used to keep the ice away from the work on the Whittier Bridge.
- he would recommend that a flat fee of \$10 be charged for any stay on the docks of less than four hours. This would be consistent with what is charged in other communities. He said the use of power and water is included in every fee and boaters often pay \$2 and then fill their water tanks or wash their boats. A discussion of fees will take place at the next meeting.
- he received a letter from the State authorizing a change at Cashman Park from \$5 to \$10 for the daily rate and \$75 to \$100 for a season pass.
- the sheet piles have been delivered and the work on the bulkhead is taking place despite the weather.
- the work on the jetty is nearing completion and it would be the appropriate time for a light to be installed at its end. Dan May will contact State Senators Kathleen O'Connor Ives and Bruce Tarr about the issue.

7. Adjournment

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.