

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Harbormaster's Facility
February 1, 2023
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 Andrew Casson, Bob Dow, Jamie Knapp, Adam Armstrong, Ron Thurlow, Justin Dutcher, Chris Charos and George Sass. Jay Lesynski was absent. Harbormaster Paul Hogg was also in attendance.

2. Minutes

Bob Dow moved to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023, meeting. Jamie Knapp seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. Committee Reports

a) Coast Guard City

The ceremony for the Cashman Award will now take place in the spring, after the plaque has been installed. The Master Chief will be asked to select a date in the last two weeks of March for a get together with the Coasties and the Commission members at the Starboard Galley.

Ron Thurlow will prepare a statement on the purpose of the award. George Cashman lobbied for the recognition of Newburyport as the birthplace of the Coast Guard. The award was created after the designation was made to express an appreciation for the relationship between the Coast Guard and the city.

b) Marketing

No report.

c) Docks, Moorings and Infrastructure

Paul Hogg said he met with the Gloucester Harbormaster, who uses Online Mooring to manage its mooring permits. GPS coordinates are used to identify the moorings. The software system could also be used to track 10A permits and insurance. An iPad will be obtained for each boat in the Department in order to document every call. The data collected would include the location, date, time and weather for all accidents and violations. Permit renewals would be sent by email.

The Commission members continued the discussion begun at a prior meeting on the need for the inspection of moorings. Boaters could be required to provide an affidavit stating the mooring has been inspected and meets at least the minimum standard. In order to avoid liability, guidelines could be issued rather than requirements. Paul Hogg will obtain the guidelines used in Gloucester, along with a copy of that city's 10A permit. Jamie Knapp will circulate the mooring application and guidelines used by the town of Fairhaven. At the next meeting, the members will vote on the 10A affidavit and fee and the fee for the Waterways Permit. A City Council sponsor will then be obtained for a change to the Ordinance.

d) Public Safety and Regulations

A meeting with the marinas and other stakeholders will be scheduled for the end of April or the beginning of May.

e) Finance

Paul Hogg said he has begun working on the FY24 budget. The submittal for the Department is due on March 3.

4. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- A 90-foot tall ship will be docked at the central waterfront for Maritime Days from June 29 to July 9.
- The contract for the construction of the expanded park will be put out to bid during the month of February.
- He received a \$13,000 grant to add solar lighting and running water on the pier at Cashman Park.
- The Department was praised at the State of the City address.
- The new patrol boat is finished and has been given a sea trial.

5. General Discussion

The Health Department is to place an announcement in the *Daily News* when the CSO signage has been installed.

6. Adjournment

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was approved.