

## **Newburyport Harbor Commission**

Harbormaster's Facility

February 5, 2020

Minutes

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Andrew Casson called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:01 p.m. In attendance were Adam Armstrong, Andrew Casson, Bob Dow, Ron Thurlow, Justin Dutcher, Jay Lesynski, Chris Kealey, Jamie Knapp and George Sass.

### **2. Minutes**

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2020, meeting as submitted. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **3. Action Committees**

#### **A) Dredging**

Andrew Casson read a letter Ron Thurlow wrote in support of dredging the river. The letter was sent to Representative Seth Moulton's office. It stated that Newburyport is a popular and busy harbor with a commercial fishing fleet and multiple tour boat operations. Sand has built up to a dangerous level in mouth of the river. Dredging is needed to keep boaters safe. In addition, Station Merrimack River is one of only 20 surf stations in country and the Coast Guard at times cannot service its area of responsibility because its boats cannot pass the sand bar at low tide.

#### **B) Public Relations/Community Outreach**

No report

#### **C) Coast Guard City**

Ron Thurlow circulated draft procedures for the disbursement of donations and received comments from other Commission members. He will incorporate these comments and finalize the document. He had previously distributed a list of action items for providing support to the Coast Guard. He said he would like to add two more activities to the list. One of these would be a clambake at Station Merrimack River. Possible dates will be discussed at the next meeting.

#### **D) Waterfront Trust**

Geordie Vining prepared a draft lease through which the Harbor Commission would pay the Waterfront Trust \$5,000 annually to tie the docks to the bulkhead. The Trustees are in the process of revising the lease and will circulate it when completed. They would favor a three-year lease over a five-year lease.

### **4. Ordinances**

The members reviewed the ordinance page by page. The comments included the following:

- Sec. 4-43: Replacement of a member – change from one month to six.

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- Sec. 4-46: Annual review of harbor management plan – plan is from 1989 and should be reviewed.
  - Sec. 4-46: Assignment of moorings – change from direct to review.
  - Sec. 4-72: Definition of vessels – should include barges. Section on tender/dinghy dock should be removed.
  - Sec. 4-73(b): Accounts – change to harbormaster’s enterprise fund accounts.
  - Sec. 4-73(c)(2): City Hall Planning Office change to Harbormaster’s Office. Minimum insurance change from \$100,000 to \$1 million. Delete sentence on 5 cents per pound fee.
  - Sec. 4-73(c)(3): Transient berthing – should be made consistent with new rate structure.
  - Sec. 4-73(c)(4): Transient loading and unloading – is not a designated location and should be under the purview of the harbormaster.
  - Sec. 4-73(d): Should be consistent with changes made in Sec. 4-73(c).
  - Sec. 4-73(e)(1): Linear length – change to overall length.
  - Sec. 4-73(e)(2): Should be consistent with the new rate schedule.
  - Sec. 4-83(a): Notifying harbormaster – change to obtaining approval, which should be done before a Coast Guard permit is obtained.
  - Sec. 4-98(b)(3)d: Temporary business – specify business at harbormaster’s facility.
- Sec. 4-98(c): Add section stating storage of commercial fishing gear shall not exceed 30 days without the permission of the harbormaster.

Items to discuss with Paul Hogg include group mooring permits, permits for commercial kayak trips and mooring inspections.

### **5. Harbormaster’s Report**

Andrew Casson read a report Paul Hogg submitted that included the following:

- A letter of support for dredging was sent to Seth Moulton.
- He started an eight-week certification class on out-board engine repair that takes place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The March meeting will take place on a Monday to accommodate his schedule.
- The proposed fee structure is on the agenda for the February 24 City Council meeting.
- The Touch-a-Boat event is scheduled for June 7.
- He met with the Planning Office and Parks Department to confirm that the plans for an enlarged waterfront park would include space for storing the docks during the winter and would accommodate the crane that is used to move the docks in and out of the water.
- He has begun to prepare the waterways permits but is waiting for approval for the adjusted fees.

### **6. Adjournment**

Bob Dow moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. Jamie Knapp seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Harbor Commission will take place on Monday, March 2.