

## **Newburyport Harbor Commission**

Harbormaster's Facility

February 6, 2019

Minutes

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

Chair Andrew Casson called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:04 p.m. In attendance were Andrew Casson, Adam Armstrong, Bob Dow, Jamie Knapp, Ron Thurlow, Chris Kealey, Justin Dutcher and Jay Lesynski. Dan May was absent.

### **2. Minutes**

Bob Dow moved to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2019, meeting as submitted. Adam Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **3. House Float Ordinance**

Andrew Casson contacted City Councilor Devlin, who said the draft ordinance is still in subcommittee and no action has been taken on it yet. Given the time of year, it is important that it receive attention immediately.

### **4. Action Committees**

#### **Public Relations/Community Outreach**

Andrew Casson spoke with George Sass, former editor of Yachting Magazine, and Jay Stockmann of Hinckley Yachts. Both men are willing to work with the action committee on a volunteer basis. They will forward a draft marketing plan for the members to review before they meet with the committee. Areas in which they might provide assistance include the development of the website, the establishment of connections with boating magazines and the creation of videos.

#### **Coast Guard City**

While government employees are generally not allowed to accept donations, the Chief Petty Officer Association determined gift cards could be accepted due to the length of the shutdown. There has been an outpouring of support from the community and the 31 men and women at Station Merrimack River each received \$100 gift cards from the Derek Hines Soldiers Assistance Fund. The City set up an account for donations through the Hines Foundation with the Newburyport Five. The Senior Chief was sending emails about current needs during the shutdown, a practice which should be continued for future emergency situations.

#### **Dredging**

Ron Thurlow will attend the February 15 meeting of the Merrimack River Beach Alliance. A subcommittee will meet on March 1 with the Woods Hole Group about dredging feasibility. One topic of discussion will be the acquisition of a shared dredge.

## **5. Public Comment**

Joe Letourneau, owner of Sustainable Fisheries, LLC, talked about the need for improvements at the fish pier. He said additional work must be done on the hoist. The pivot point for stay cable has seized and the cable is out of adjustment. He obtained a rough estimate of \$1,500 for making the hoist safe and functional. The main problem is a general lack of maintenance. He thinks the money paid for the use of the fish pier should be earmarked for the maintenance of the facility. He asked how it is determined who gets to use the commercial dock spaces. He said not everyone pays to use the space and often those who do not pay do not clean up after themselves as well. Bob Dow and Ron Thurlow will work with Paul Hogg to make sure the floodlight and hoist are working properly and will discuss the issue of the use of the commercial dock spaces.

## **6. Harbormaster's Report**

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

- He has submitted the FY2020 budget narratives.
- He took part in a conference call about the North Shore Dredge Feasibility Study. Participating in the call were local harbormasters, municipal stakeholders, State officials and the Woods Hole Group. Topics discussed included the timeline for the project, the Barnstable county dredge program, geographic locations for dredging, sediment characterization and equipment. The conversation will continue on March 1.
- Excise tax bill demand letters will be sent out next week.
- The waterways permits will be sent out March 28.
- The vessel *Southern Passage*, which has previously spent months on the central waterfront, is returning this year and will have all the proper permits.
- The 70-foot tall ship *Gundalow* is set to visit the weekend after Labor Day.
- Work has begun to fix the floats at Cashman Park.
- He attended a conference and training session put on by the Massachusetts Marine Trades Association. Topics included government relations, team building, effective job descriptions, Massachusetts employment law updates, recruiting vs. hiring, and attracting and working with millennials.

## **7. Other Business**

Mayor Holaday will attend the next meeting to provide updates on the upstream sewage releases.

## **8. Adjournment**

Bob Dow moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. Jamie Knapp seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.