

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Harbormaster's Facility
March 9, 2017
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 Bob Dow, Andrew Casson, Justin Dutcher, Paul Rooney, Jamie Knapp and Chris Kealey. Dan May was absent. Harbormaster Paul Hogg, Jay Lesynski and Adam Armstrong were also present.

2. Minutes

Bob Dow moved to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2017 meeting as submitted. Justin Dutcher seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Water Sheet Application

Jay Lesynski presented the water sheet application from Merri-Mar Yacht Basin. The floats would be replaced with new aluminum-framed ones in the same configuration as currently exists. The width would be changed from 5.5' to 8'. The length of the docks would not be changed. The inside finger would remain on its existing footprint. The outside finger would extend eight feet further into the river, moving from 37' to 45' from the shore.

Paul Rooney moved to approve the water sheet application for Merri-Mar Yacht Basin as submitted. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. General Discussion

Request from Lowell's Boat Shop

A letter was received from Lowell's Boat Shop requesting free dock space for the visits of two tall ships, the *Lynx* and the *Piscataqua*. The Boat Shop received a reduced rate on dock space last summer and is now requesting to receive space for no fee. Paul Hogg said the program is a good one and he would like to support it, but providing free dock space would set a precedent. The Maritime Society has arranged for the visit of a tall ship over the Memorial Day weekend. The non-profit organizers charge admission for boarding the vessels, sell merchandise and host private parties, which are not inexpensive to attend. The visits bring associated costs to the City, such as the removal of trash and an escort into the harbor, and paying customers would lose the use of the docks. Transient berthing is at the discretion of the Harbormaster. The Commission gave him the discretion to determine the rates for non-profit organizations for the 2017 season and will consider instituting a fee schedule next year. Lowell's Boat Shop will be offered the same discount as was given last year.

Website

Chris Kealey is waiting for authorization from the mayor to create a stand-alone website for the Harbor Commission and the Harbormaster. Jamie Knapp will look into advertising the new facility in publications such as *New England Boating* and *Points East*.

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Committee Assignments

The Commission members will each serve on to two committees. The assignments will be made at the next meeting, by which time the new members will have been appointed.

5. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported:

- the docks will be put in the water at the end of the March or the first week in April, depending on the weather.
- details will begin near the Whittier Bridge at the end of March and will continue through the summer.
- he is preparing to send out the waterways and mooring permits and is setting up an online registration system for waterways permits.
- he is working with Castagna Construction on the punch list for the new facility.
- he is contacting the lifeguards about returning for the upcoming season. He will need to hire some new lifeguards. A first aid training class will be held at his office on March 23.
- a \$1.3 billion cut to the Coast Guard's budget has been proposed, which would have a substantial impact.
- he plans to attend a meeting on the return of sturgeon to the Merrimack River.
- he plans to attend a training in New Bedford on March 16 hosted by the Mass. Shellfish Officers Association. Topics of discussion will be river herring; marine mammal and sea turtle entanglement; scallop restoration; and updates on environmental law, the Division of Marine Fisheries and the new public health law.
- he will hold a boater safety training safety session in the new facility at the end of the month.

6. Other Business

Paul Rooney announced his resignation, saying he is undertaking new personal endeavors that would prevent him from devoting the necessary time to the Commission.

7. Adjournment

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Paul Rooney seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission will take place on Thursday, April 13, 2017.