

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Harbormaster's Facility
April 12, 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, Jay Lesynski, Adam Armstrong, Justin Dutcher, Chris Charos, George Sass and Jamie Knapp. Ron Thurlow was absent. Harbormaster Paul Hogg was also in attendance.

2. Minutes

Justin Dutcher moved to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2023, meeting. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. Dredging

Bob Dow said attention must be called to the need for maintenance dredging and the relocation of the Federal channel. The Commission should take action on its own to get these goals accomplished. Jamie Knapp said that now that the dredge has been completed, focus is being placed on the role the jetties play in erosion. Many parties were involved with the dredging project, but there would less interest in the Federal channel and the Commission should be able to bring about the necessary change. The Commission members will use their knowledge and experience to accomplish these two goals.

Other areas in need of the Commission's attention are the 10A permits, the embayment and the replacement of the central waterfront docks. Paul Hogg said he is applying for grant money for dredging at the fish pier and in the embayment.

Adam Armstrong has begun preparing a written document on local insights on the dredging of the river. The contents will include the short and long-term history of dredging, the state of current conditions, the stakeholders and impacted parties, beach nourishment, the relocation of the Federal channel and maintenance dredging. Justin Dutcher said a PowerPoint presentation should be put together for the small group that will be assembled to discuss the topic.

4. Committee Reports

a) Coast Guard City

No report.

b) Marketing

No report.

c) Docks, Moorings and Infrastructure

No report.

d) Public Safety and Regulations

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A meeting for stakeholders is scheduled for April 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the North End Boat Club. Ron Thurlow will be asked to talk about kayak safety

e) Finance

A budget meeting took place. The budget will be revised based on the discussion and a follow up meeting will then take place.

5. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- The docks are in the water. Power and water are being hooked up. The plans for the park expansion are behind schedule and it does not appear that the temporary power would be needed until next year.
- The dredging project has been completed.
- He is getting the boats ready for the season. The new boat has been unwrapped.
- The office is busy with permits.
- The contractor has been working on the drainage problem in the Cashman Park lot.
- He received a \$13,000 grant for solar lights for the pump station and fish pier at Cashman Park.
- He has a beginning-of-the-season meeting scheduled with the Coast Guard.
- The project to repair the bulkhead has been put out to bid and a site visit has taken place.
- He is working to get quotes for the replacement of the pump station.
- The Mayor would not support the installation of the parking system for the Plum Island lot for this year.

6. Other Business

The City is hosting a Boards, Commissions and Volunteers Fair on May 4. Chris Charos will attend, as will Jamie Knapp if he has been reappointed to the Commission. He will draft a statement about the Commission's accomplishments and will circulate it to the other members for review.

Justin Dutcher spoke in support of the Commission members whose terms are set to expire. He said he would like the team to be kept together.

7. Adjournment

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. Bob Dow Casson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.