

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Harbormaster's Facility
April 3, 2019
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Acting Chair Bob Dow called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were Adam Armstrong, Bob Dow, Jamie Knapp, Justin Dutcher, Jay Lesynski, Ron Thurlow and Chris Kealey. Andrew Casson was absent.

2. Minutes

Justin Dutcher moved to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2019, meeting as submitted. Jamie Knapp seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. House Float Ordinance

The draft ordinance is still in the City Council public safety subcommittee. Approval has been received for a review of the document by the City's solicitor.

4. Waterfront Marketing

At the previous meeting, George Sass and Jay Stockmann presented a full-scale marketing strategy for promoting Newburyport as a boating community. While the ideas were good ones, the small amount of available dock space would not make the expense of this type of marketing campaign beneficial. The Commission members discussed alternative actions that could be taken. The Chamber of Commerce could be asked to include boating information on its website. Marketing could be done that would target residents upriver from Newburyport. Videos could be posted on the harbormaster's Facebook page or on the local access TV station. High school students could be asked to assist with technology to create the video. One idea worth pursuing would be a press weekend. The first step would be the preparation of a spec sheet listing the amenities Newburyport has to offer.

5. Action Committees

Waterfront Trust

The subcommittee meetings with the Waterfront Trust have been on hold. The NRA is working towards transferring the submerged tidelands jointly to the City and the Trust. The Trustees will be looking to the waterside, especially the embayment, as means of increasing its revenue in order to maintain an expanded park. They expected to enter into a revenue sharing agreement with the Harbor Commission. The Harbor Commission members maintain their position that while they would be willing to manage the entire central waterfront without a fee to the Waterfront Trust and the Trust should retain the tour boat income, they would not support sharing the recreational boating revenue.

Dredging

Paul Hogg completed a questionnaire about regional dredging. Jamie Knapp reported that funds are to be released this year for dredging under a new transportation bill. He said Stephen Lynch meets on a regular basis with members of the Army Corp. in Washington.

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Funding has recently been secured for the ongoing Boston Harbor Dredging Project. Seth Moulton could perhaps seek assistance from Congressman Lynch in obtaining funds for dredging the mouth of the river.

6. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported:

- He plans to put the docks in on April 8 and 9, but windy weather could cause a delay.
- The public restrooms in the facility will be opened on April 5.
- He is interested in utilizing an on-line reservation system for the docks, such as the one used in Gloucester. He could arrange for a presentation on the system at an upcoming meeting.
- The waterways and mooring permits were sent out on March 29.
- The tall ship *Nao Santa Maria* will be docked on the central waterfront from May 31 to June 10.
- The hiring and training of the seasonal staff has begun. Many employees will be returning from last year.
- The Riverfest will not be held in Newburyport this year.
- The Coast Guard plans to installed a temporary buoy under the Whittier Bridge before Memorial Day weekend.
- He is preparing the boats for the season and has run a hose to the fish pier.

7. Other Business

Vacancy

Dan May has resigned. His recent retirement has brought about changes in his life that would prevent him from being an active member of the Commission. The regular process for filling the vacancy will be followed.

Ordinances

The waterways permit has been updated online. The members will devote a small amount of time at each meeting to reviewing the ordinance until it has been evaluated in its entirety.

8. Public Comment

None

9. Adjournment

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. Chris Kealey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Harbor Commission will take place on Wednesday, May 1.