

Newburyport Harbor Commission

Online Meeting

April 6, 2022

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Andrew Casson called a hybrid meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Andrew Casson, Bob Dow, Jamie Knapp and Jay Lesynski. Harbormaster Paul Hogg was also in attendance. Adam Armstrong, Justin Dutcher, Ron Thurlow and George Sass attended remotely.

2. Minutes

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2022, meeting. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote (Andrew Casson, yes; Bob Dow, yes; Jamie Knapp, yes; Adam Armstrong, yes; Jay Lesynski, yes; Ron Thurlow, yes; Justin Dutcher, abstain; George Sass, abstain).

3. Watersheet Application

A watersheet application for 1 Spofford Street will be on the agenda of the May 4 meeting. The docks are seasonal and may not be put back in the water until the application has been approved. The docks were installed in their current configuration in 2017. No watersheet application was submitted at that time. The Commission members discussed the possible addition of penalties to the Ordinance.

4. Committee Reports

a) Coast Guard City

The recertification has been approved.

b) Dredging

The final municipal agreement with the Salisbury Harbor Commission has been drafted. Salisbury and Newburyport are to share the cost of permitting and dredging the area outside of the federal channel.

c) Finance

No report.

d) Public Relations/Community Outreach/Marketing

The Commission members discussed the goals and objectives of the website. The focus should be on providing information to boaters rather than attracting new visitors. A page should be included on the Coast Guard City designation. One goal might be to change the reputation of the mouth of the river as being dangerous. The Coast Guard could be lobbied about changing the federal channel.

5. Market Landing Park

There have been no new developments in the plans for the expanded park. The recent focus has been on the design of the restroom facility.

6. General Discussion

The Commission members discussed the accomplishments they would like to achieve over the next year or two. Goals include changing and widening the federal channel and dredging the fish pier and embayment.

7. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- He met with the public safety subcommittee of the City Council, which is supportive of the project to dredge the area outside of the federal channel.
- The Waterways Permits have been sent out.
- The docks have been put in the water. The replacement of the docks is a part of the capital improvement plan.
- He has attended meetings on the design of the expanded park. There is a concern about the creation of a plaza at the east end of the boardwalk. Users should not be attracted to an area where there is vehicular traffic to the fish pier.
- The City is seeking a \$1.75 federal grant for the repair of the bulkhead. The project will be phased if the financial resources are not available to complete all of the work at one time.
- He attended a FEMA exercise.
- It is expected the new patrol boat will be delivered in the fall, but the engines might be delayed.
- The budget meeting with Mayor Reardon went well. He will meet with the City Council about the budget on June 2.
- Invitations have been sent out for the change of command at the Coast Guard.
- No applications have been received for lifeguard positions. The Mayor supports the plan to leave the positions unfilled for the upcoming season.

8. Other Business

The next kayak safety class will be held on May 11.

Jay Lesynski and Jamie Knapp will look into the inclusion in the Ordinance of a standard for the inspection of moorings.

Andrew Casson will meet with Mayor Reardon to discuss appointments to the Commission. The terms of Justin Dutcher and George Sass have expired. They have been asked to submit their resumes if they wish to be considered for reappointment.

9. Adjournment

Bob Dow moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Jamie Knapp seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.