

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Harbormaster's Facility
May 11, 2017
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Andrew Casson called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:12 p.m. In attendance were Bob Dow, Andrew Casson, Justin Dutcher, Jamie Knapp, Chris Kealey, Jay Lesynski and Adam Armstrong. Dan May was absent.

2. Minutes

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2017 meeting as submitted. Chris Kealey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Subcommittee Assignments

Justin Dutcher will chair the finance committee. Bob Dow will chair the moorings, safety and regulations committee. Justin Dutcher and Jamie Knapp will be members of that committee. Dan May will chair the committee that liaises with the Coast Guard. Chris Kealey will act as web master. He will chair the public relations committee and Adam Armstrong will be a member of the committee. Jamie Knapp and Jay Lesynski will take the lead of the long-term planning committee, which is a committee of the whole. The priorities of this committee will be the dredging of the fish pier and the mouth of the river.

4. General Discussion

Houseboat Ordinance

A discussion took place about the need for an ordinance to govern houseboats. Houseboats have been a concern in cities throughout the country and have been the subject of many court cases. The Coast Guard is not involved in the issue because houseboats are not vessels. They do not require waterways permits. No real estate taxes are assessed to houseboats but they may be the recipients of city services such as police and fire department protection. Their method of construction, height and utilities are of a concern to City officials. An ordinance adopted by the city of Seattle could serve as a model for a Newburyport law. The Commission members will review with Seattle ordinance and make recommendations to the City solicitor and building commissioner.

5. Subcommittee Reports

Finance Committee

The budget has been submitted. The City auditor has added a \$3,000 line item to the budget for auditing the department's financial records. An audit does not take place annually. The Commission members do not wish to have the funds withdrawn each year. Instead they will add a line item to the budget only in the years in which an audit is to take place.

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Public Relations Committee

The Commission members approve of spending money for advertising for the new facility. They decided not to participate in the Stay Local Boat MA program because of the discount that would be given to participants.

Moorings, Safety and Regulations Committee

The American Yacht Club has a group mooring but Paul Hogg does not have a form or fee schedule for the club. Under the City ordinance yacht clubs and marinas may apply to the Harbormaster for a group-mooring permit for a specified mooring area. The Commission members must look further into the matter.

6. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported:

- He has been invited to assist with security at Sail Boston, which will take place June 17- 22.
- The concrete pour for one of the piers at the Whittier Bridge failed, which will set back the completion of construction one year. Details are now taking place seven days per week.
- The DPS has refurbished the lifeguard stands.
- He is working on the renewals of waterways and mooring permits. Payments may now be made online.
- A hazmat training session will take place at the Whittier Bridge on May 16.
- The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new facility was a huge success.
- Two tall ships will be in port on Memorial Day weekend.
- The public restrooms in the new facility will open on Memorial Day weekend.
- He has applied for a grant for a second pump-out boat.
- The safe boat was taken to Hudson's Outboard for maintenance.

7. Adjournment

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Justin Dutcher seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission will take place on Thursday, June 8, 2017.