

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Harbormaster's Facility
May 1, 2019
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 Adam Armstrong, Andrew Casson, Bob Dow, Jamie Knapp, Justin Dutcher, Ron Thurlow and Chris Kealey. Jay Lesynski was absent.

2. Minutes

Bob Dow moved to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2019, meeting as submitted. Jamie Knapp seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. General Business

A) Updates

Mayor Holaday attended the meeting to provide updates on several topics:

- The work to construct a berm on Reservation Terrace from sand removed from the Charos property has been delayed until the fall due to the lack of a reliable plover monitor. The City does not have the resources to nourish the dunes each year. She suggested that \$1 could be added to the cost of parking in the Plum Island lot to establish a fund for this purpose. She is concerned about the condition of the boardwalk and the lack of beach at high tide due to erosion.
- Three bills have been filed related to combined sewer overflows. One of these is for an early warning system. She has met with the mayors of Nashua and Manchester, whose cities have the largest overflows. A summit with the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission on the subject is scheduled for June 7. The oyster harvest does not meet its full potential because of the poor water quality.
- It does not appear that a shared regional dredge would be feasible.
- She and members of the Plum Island Foundation met in Washington with the Army Corp. about dredging the mouth of the river. She is hopeful funding would be available in the next fiscal year.

B) Waterfront Trust

Steve Hines reported the *Ninth Wave* has been sold. The Waterfront Trust was not given advanced notice about its departure from the Transportation Dock. The Trustees would like to replace it with another sailing vessel. It would be necessary for it to be a catamaran due to the shallowness of the water at the dock. It is unlikely one would be found for this season.

C) North End Boat Club

Jamie Knapp and Ron Thurlow recused themselves from the discussion. Representatives from the boat club presented a plan that would allow for the future expansion of the mooring field. The size of the field is currently limited due to the swinging of boats. The proposal is for the installation of six 20' x 5' stationary docks located near the shore. Each dock could accommodate two boats. Justin Dutcher moved to approve the plan with the conditions that

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the docks would not be prohibited under the ordinance and the Harbormaster shall decide the location of the docks. Adam Armstrong seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Jamie Knapp and Ron Thurlow abstaining.

D) Online Reservation System

Mathew Minty made a lengthy presentation on Cambridge-based Dockwa, an online system that connects boaters and marinas. Boaters are able to make reservations through Dockwa, as well as find contact information, links to websites, reviews, and information on amenities, rates and cancellation policies. Four marinas in Newburyport are members of Dockwa. The basic plan is free for marinas. The only cost is 3.5% for credit card processing. Online reservations could be used for a portion of the docks at the central waterfront. The remainder would be set aside for hourly use.

E) Ordinance

At the April meeting it was decided that a small amount of time would be devoted at each meeting for the review of the ordinance until it has been evaluated in its entirety. The ordinance with regards to floats and rafts on moorings was reviewed in conjunction with the North End Boat Club application.

4. Action Committees

A) Dredging

Ron Thurlow attended via webcast a meeting with the Woods Hole Group about the study conducted on the feasibility of a regional dredge. It does not appear that a regional dredge would be viable in this area because geographical variations would require different types of dredges. The sharing of a dredge has been successful in Barnstable County, which is more homogenous. Mass Works could be a potential source of funding for dredging.

B) Public Relations/Community Outreach

A local student who has worked for Port Media and is studying film at Ithaca College will be asked to meet with the action committee to discuss the production of a video for the Commission's website.

C) Coast Guard City

At the next meeting a discussion will take place on the steps that must be taken to ensure recertification as a Coast Guard City. Ron Thurlow will meet with the Chamber of Commerce to coordinate activities.

5. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported:

- A shrink wrap disposal container has been installed at Cashman Park.
- A youth fishing clinic will take place at Cashman Park on May 18.
- A rainy April resulted in a slow start to the season but the office has been busy issuing permits.
- A safety and survival training program for commercial fishermen was held at the Coast Guard Station on April 24-26.
- He has renewed his captains license.
- He has been reviewing standard operating policies and procedures with the summer staff.

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- He has been receiving complaints about people walking on the dunes during high tide due to the lack of beach.

6. Public Comment

None

7. Adjournment

Bob Dow moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Chris Kealey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Harbor Commission will take place on Wednesday, June 5.