

Newburyport Harbor Commission

Online Meeting

May 5, 2021

Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. Minutes

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2021, meeting as submitted. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote (Andrew Casson, yes; Bob Dow, yes; Justin Dutcher, yes; Jamie Knapp, yes; Ron Thurlow, yes; Adam Armstrong, yes; George Sass, abstain).

3. Waterfront Trust Lease

There have been no developments with regards to the lease with the Waterfront Trust.

4. Committee Reports

a) Coast Guard City

The members reviewed their tasks for the Coast Guard City redesignation application. Letters from the Coast Guard Sector Boston, Mayor Holaday, Governor Baker, Senator DiZoglio, Representative Kelcourse, Senator Markey and Senator Warren must be received by May 15. Ron Thurlow obtained a great deal of helpful information from the Custom House. He circulated a list of past activities and events. Andrew Casson will work on the list of support services and Justin Dutcher will draft an item on future events.

The Cashman Award was not presented in 2020 due to Covid-19. Andrew Casson recommended recognizing the entire station. The library could be dedication as a part of the award and a plaque could be mounted the bookcase. An outdoor ceremony could be scheduled for the summer. The library would then be on display if the station were opened for tours during Yankee Homecoming. The 2021 award could be made in the fall.

b) Dredging

The Army Corp surveyed the area outside of the federal channel where dredging is needed. The City is responsible for obtaining the necessary permits and funding for the additional dredging.

c) Public Relations/Community Outreach/Marketing

The committee will review the revisions to the website at the next meeting.

d) Finance

Justin Dutcher wrote a letter of support for a salary adjustment for Paul Hogg, whose contract is up for renewal. The letter was sent to the union and Mayor Holaday.

5. Kayak Ordinance

Ron Thurlow has conducted two safety classes and a third one has been scheduled. Some of the slides he prepared for the class could be added to the website. He said Plum Island Kayaks has not responded to his attempts to engage the business in revisions to the draft ordinance. He has drafted language for signage at the gas dock. George Sass will help prepare the safety brochure. Signs are needed for four or five cartop parking spaces at Cashman Park.

6. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported:

- He discussed the repair of the bulkhead with Mayor Holaday, Georgie Vining and Ethan Manning. Its condition does not require immediate attention and funds are not available at this time for repairs. The areas in poorest condition were previously repaired. It would be possible to delay the work for a couple of years, which would allow time to apply for grants. Funds are on hand for an inspection of the bulkhead, which would be used to estimate the cost of the work.
- He brought up the need for the winter storage of the docks during the walkaround of the park that took place with Sasaki Associates on April 22. The firm was involved with engineering work regarding a berthing area in the embayment in the 1990s. Bob Dow will contact the firm about the existence of any old records.
- He has spent time dealing with problems with the *Captain Red*, a 110-foot tour boat that is now on a mooring in Salisbury. The owner has had problems with the town of Haverhill.
- The budget as a whole will be submitted to City Council on May 10.
- An application has been submitted for a Port Security Grant for the new patrol boat.
- A boom deployment training for multiple departments is scheduled take place at the North End Boat Club.
- There have been no applicants for the lifeguard positions. The Commission members gave him their support to make any necessary decisions based on the staff availability.

7. Other Business

Vacancy

Chris Kealey has submitted his resignation due to work conflicts. An advertisement will be placed in the *Daily News* about the vacancy.

8. Adjournment

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. Justin Dutcher seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Harbor Commission will be scheduled for June 2, 2021.