

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Newburyport High School
June 11, 2015
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Brad Duffin called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Brad Duffin, Bob Dow, Jamie Knapp, Chris Kealey, Dan May, Justin Dutcher, Paul Rooney, Andrew Casson and Paul Dahn. Also in attendance was Harbormaster Paul Hogg.

2. Minutes

Justin Dutcher moved to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2015 meeting as submitted and the April 9, 2015 executive session as amended. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Bob Dow moved to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2015 meeting as submitted. Paul Dahn seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- \$93,000 in State funds will be used to enhance the boat launch area at Cashman Park.
- the improvement to the fishing pier at Cashman Park should be completed in the next two to three weeks. The pier is being lengthened and made accessible.
- rescue efforts went according to protocol when a construction worker fell from the Whittier Bridge.
- he has attended biweekly meetings about the work on the north jetty.
- boat traffic has begun to increase. The season had been off to a slow start. Fishing has not been good because of the cold temperature of the water.
- he removed a 30-foot log from the channel and dragged it out three miles.
- he has no new information on the rough bar light. He has heard it might be installed in a new location. The Army Corp. will again survey the channel after the work on the north jetty has been completed.

4. Subcommittee Reports

Coast Guard City Liaison and Community Outreach Committee

Paul Rooney said he plans to announce the candidate for the Cashman Award at the July 9 meeting. Station Merrimack River will host a get together for members of the Mothers Club the end of the season. An upcoming regular meeting of the club will be held at the Station as well. The Coast Guard has had a change of command in Sectors Boston and Northern New England. Station Merrimack River personnel are keeping the Coast Guard City book up to date. Recertification would take place in 2017.

5. Harbormaster's/Transient Boaters' Facility Financing

Andrew Casson said the City Council approved a restructuring of fees at its June 8 meeting. At the central waterfront a flat fee of \$10 will be charged for three hours or less for all boats under 59 feet in length. At the Plum Island lot residents will be charged \$8 to park each day. The rate will not increase on weekends, as it had in the past. Non-residents will pay \$12 per day. Effective this year, a \$25 late charge will be implemented for waterways fees not paid by July 1. The potential exists for an increase in other fees next year to support the cost of the Harbormaster's/Transient Boaters' facility.

Bob Dow said in comparing rates in other communities, the subcommittee looked at the fees for moorings and slips in Portsmouth, Boston, Scituate, Nantucket and Kennebunkport. The rates in Newburyport are significantly lower than in these other communities. He said the Commission must find a balance between raising revenue and being attractive to boaters. Brad Duffin asked Paul Hogg to collect information of the home ports of visiting boaters.

Andrew Casson provided an overview of three bond schedules. The current estimate for the facility is \$1.425 million. When reduced by a \$30,000 green communities grant and the \$448,059 boating infrastructure grant, the total estimated cost would be \$946,941. The payment on a 20-year bond with a 3.5% interest rate would be \$66,627. An interest rate of 4.5% makes a 30-year bond unattractive. The interest rate on a 25-year bond would be 3.875%. The Commission members favored the 20-year bond, but will not vote on the term of the bond until the bids have been received. It is not expected that any retained earnings would be used for the facility because funds must be kept on hand for maintenance and utilities.

6. Adjournment

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 p.m. Paul Rooney seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.