

Newburyport Harbor Commission
City Council Chambers
June 12, 2014
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, Steve Hines, Andrew Casson, Paul Rooney and Dan May. Also in attendance was Harbormaster Paul Hogg.

2. Minutes

Paul Rooney moved to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2014 meeting as amended. Andrew Casson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Harbormasters' and Transient Boaters' Facility Update

Geordie Vining and David Keery presented the changes to the plans for the Harbormasters' and Transient Boaters' Facility. The Harbormaster's office was made smaller, which reduces the massing of the building. A changing area for the staff was added. The area of heated space now totals approximately 1,800 square feet. Decisions are currently being made on the design of the roof and foundation, along with colors and materials. A photovoltaic system is being considered for the roof.

The cost of the building is estimated at \$800,000, with another \$200,000 needed for overhead and profit, bonds, general conditions, escalation costs and design contingency. The landscaping, site work and utilities are expected to cost an additional \$200,000. These costs, higher than what had been anticipated by the Commission members, are based on the assumption a variance would be received from the Architectural Accessibility Board and the installation of an elevation would not be necessary.

The cost of the public restrooms and decking adjacent to them is estimated at \$200,000. The City could possibly be asked to contribute to the cost of the facilities open to the general public, although the Commission members might not necessarily favor this approach.

Applications will be submitted for both Tier 1 and Tier 2 grant programs. The Tier 1 grant is a State one, with up to \$90,000 available each year. Up to \$1 million could be requested under the federal Tier 2 grant. Sections of the building would be eligible for differing amount of funding, depending on the degree to which they provide services for transient boaters. If the applications were submitted in the fall, decisions would be received in the spring and the project could begin in the fall of 2015. It had been hoped that construction would begin in the spring of 2015.

Brad Duffin said that while he approves of the conceptual plans, the building is too expensive and he would like a reduction in square footage to be considered as a means of reducing the cost. Andrew Casson suggested the boaters' dollars be used for the building itself, but the City might contribute to the development of the surrounding landscape. The cost associated with moving the fishermen's memorial and integrating the landscaping with the Rail Trail perhaps should not be borne by boaters. The group as a whole wishes

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to see the public restrooms retained, grants aggressively pursued and the cost of the project reduced, perhaps by the simplification of the landscape design.

4. Subcommittee Reports

Regulations, Safety and Moorings Committee

No report.

Budget and Finance Committee

No report.

Coast Guard City Liaison and Community Outreach Committee

Senior Chief Mark DiLenge, Officer in Charge of the Station Merrimack River, said fireman Danielle Sinnigan is to be the nominee for Cashman Award. He also said the station is working on a public service award to be given to the Newburyport Mother's Club. A boater safety class for members of the Mothers' Club is to be held at the end of August. Paul Rooney moved to name Danielle Sinnigan as the recipient of the George Cashman Award. Dan May seconded the motion. The award ceremony would likely take place on the morning of the second Saturday of Yankee Homecoming. The motion was unanimously approved.

The assistance of the Mothers' Club would be sought again in July, when the galley at the station is to be out of commission.

A tall ship is scheduled to be in the weekend of September 5-8.

5. Pump-out Station Replacement

Paul Hogg said a State grant covers 75% of the cost of the pump-out station. Salisbury profits from sharing the pump-out station, but does not contribute to the remaining 25% of the cost. The station must be replaced at an estimated expense of \$20,000. The Harbormaster's share of the expense would be \$5,000. Mr. Hogg would like to request that Salisbury share this cost. He will work with Brad Duffin to prepare a letter from the Commission to the Salisbury Harbormaster.

6. Plum Island Parking

Paul Hogg said the cost of parking at the Plum Island lot is \$10 weekends and \$8 weekdays. He would like the rate to be changed to \$10 each day. He said while the rate has not changed for many years, the cost of wages for the lifeguards has increased. He will work with the finance committee to make a recommendation to the City Council, which must approve any increase in fees.

7. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- 14 adults and children participated in a recent boater safety class.

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- the bulkhead was completed under budget. The contractor will use the extra money for a new railing at the Fish Pier, brackets for the strongarms and the replacement of the timber piles by the fish hoists.
- the shellfish beds are closed due to red tide.
- concrete newly poured for a pier at the Whittier Bridge did not cure, putting the project three months behind schedule. Members of his department are stationed on the river to assist boaters with the navigation of the channel.
- a meeting of harbormasters will take at June 18 at PITA Hall on Plum Island.
- the City Council approved the budget.
- the Mayor plans to close the Plum Island parking lot on August 10 for a clambake, which will result in a loss of revenue.

8. General Discussion

None

9. Public Comment

None

10. Adjournment

Andrew Casson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.