

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Online Meeting
June 3, 2020
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 Adam Armstrong, Andrew Casson, Bob Dow, Justin Dutcher, Jamie Knapp, Ron Thurlow, Jay Lesynski and Chris Kealey. George Sass was absent. Harbormaster Paul Hogg was also in attendance.

2. Minutes

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2020, meeting as submitted. Justin Dutcher seconded the motion. The motion was approved by an 8-0 vote (Adam Armstrong, yes; Andrew Casson, yes; Bob Dow, yes; Justin Dutcher, yes; Jamie Knapp, yes; Ron Thurlow, yes; Jay Lesynski, yes; and Chris Kealey, yes).

3. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported:

- The docks are in at the central waterfront. The power and water have been turned on. Reservations will be taken beginning June 5.
- The parking lot at Plum Island has been busy. A restriction has not been placed on the number of cars allowed in the lot. Flyers are being distributed to inform the public that no lifeguards will be on duty.
- The work at the Joppa boat ramp should be completed this week.
- The review of the budget by the City Council subcommittee went well. The budget should be approved by the full Council at its June 8 meeting.
- Revenue to date is slightly up from last year. This is due to the increase in fees and the poor weather in the spring of 2019.
- Personnel expenses have increased. While there is no expense for the lifeguards, two employees have been on duty at all times at both Cashman Park and the Plum Island lot.
- The public restrooms on Plum Island remain closed due to the septic system on the island being a sensitive one. The portable toilets are cleaned daily by the company that is used throughout the city. The restroom at the Harbormaster's facility is open and cleaned daily.
- The engines for the safe boat have been ordered.
- The restrooms at the marinas have been opened and the demand for the pump-out boat has not been as intensive as expected.

4. Ordinances and Fees

Work on the ordinance, including the houseboat ordinance, will resume. Comments should be forwarded to Chris Kealey for discussion at the next meeting.

5. Committee Reports

A) Coast Guard City

Ron Thurlow sent a message about Coast Guard City highway signage to the contact at DOT but has not yet received a response.

B) Dredging

No report.

C) Waterfront Trust

Andrew Casson will distribute the draft lease that the Waterfront Trust prepared.

D) Public Relations/Community Outreach/Marketing

The video for the Commission's website has been completed. The subcommittee with work on integrating it into the marketing campaign. Material should be included in order that it may be used for the Coast Guard City renewal application.

Chris Kealy moved to provide Colin Cody with a \$500 stipend and a letter of reference for the production of the video. Ron Thurlow seconded the motion. The motion was approved by an 8-0 vote (Adam Armstrong, yes; Andrew Casson, yes; Bob Dow, yes; Justin Dutcher, yes; Jamie Knapp, yes; Ron Thurlow, yes; Jay Lesynski, yes; and Chris Kealey, yes).

6. General Discussion

- Ron Thurlow said he is concerned about the length of time the Joppa boat ramp has been closed. Kayakers are launching at the Black Cow and Cashman Park, which is not as safe.
- Andrew Casson commented about the lack of markers warning of the rocks by Chain Bridge.
- Information should be sent out about reservations being taken for the docks.

7. Adjournment

Justin Dutcher moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Harbor Commission will be scheduled for July 1.