

Newburyport Harbor Commission

Harbormaster's Facility

June 5, 2019

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Andrew Casson called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:02 p.m. In attendance were Adam Armstrong, Andrew Casson, Bob Dow, Jamie Knapp, Justin Dutcher, Ron Thurlow, Chris Kealey and Jay Lesynski.

2. Minutes

Bob Dow moved to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2019, meeting as submitted. Chris Kealey seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. Ordinances

The Commission members reviewed the first five pages of the ordinance. It will be proposed that the minimum amount of liability insurance and property damage insurance for commercial fishing vessels shall be changed from \$100,000 to \$1 million. The reference shall be deleted in Sec. 4-73 (c) to a fee of \$.05 per pound for each pound in excess of 20,000 pounds of fish per day. The definition of a commercial fishing vessel shall be reviewed at the next meeting. The review of the ordinance shall continue over the next few months and the proposed changes shall be submitted to City Council in the off-season.

4. Plum Island Parking Fees

Mayor Holaday wishes to add a fee to the rate for parking in the Plum Island lot to fund beach nourishment projects on the island. The rates, which are currently \$10 on weekdays and \$12 on weekends, have not been increased in several years. Justin Dutcher moved to increase the fee for parking in the Plum Island lot on weekends to \$15 and to authorize that \$1 for each car parked in the lot shall be donated to the City for a fund that would be used to nourish the public portions of the beach and this donation shall be reviewed annually. Ron Thurlow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Online Reservation System

The Dockwa online reservation system is operating. The rates should be reviewed at the October and September meetings, with any increases being proposed to City Council in November.

6. Action Committees

A) Dredging

No update

B) Public Relations/Community Outreach

The local film student has begun filming for the production of a video for the Commission's website.

C) Coast Guard City

Ron Thurlow distributed a draft plan to welcome and support Coast Guard members assigned to Station Merrimack River. Andrew Casson suggested the Commission host an annual clambake at the station.

The Yankee Homecoming Committee requested that the Cashman Award be presented at the same time as the Rybacki Award. The ceremony would take place on August 3 behind the Custom House. Presenting the two awards at the same time would boost attendance and has been done in the past.

7. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported:

- The tall ship *Nao Santa Maria* came in Friday night at 10:30 p.m.
- He was interviewed for the *Local Pulse*.
- The pump-out boat should be ready for the upcoming weekend.
- He is working with the DPS to repave the parking lot at Cashman Park. A \$100,000 grant was received for the work, which will be done Friday.
- He is working to receive a grant to obtain an ice machine for the commercial fishermen. A fee would be charged for the ice to offset the cost of operating the machine. He might wish to institute a fish pier permit that would include ice and the use of the hoist.
- Over 50 kids participated in the fishing clinic.
- The hoist has been inspected and certified.
- He will attend the next meeting of the City Council budget and finance subcommittee. Income has not been keeping pace with expenses and an increase in fees is necessary. It would be preferable to do this incrementally.
- He is scheduled to meet with a member of the Coast Guard about the placement of a buoy between the piers at the Whittier Bridge.
- A training session is to be held on the use of the fire department's radio frequency.
- The Health Department has been taking samples to test water quality.
- A search and rescue training course is to be held with the Coast Guard at a date that has not yet been determined.
- The Touch-a-Boat event was very successful.

8. Public Comment

None

9. Adjournment

Bob Dow moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Chris Kealey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. Due to the Independence Day holiday, the next meeting of the Harbor Commission will take place on Monday, July 1.