

**Newburyport Harbor Commission**  
Police Station Conference Room  
July 10, 2014  
Minutes

**1. Call to Order**

Acting Chair Bob Dow called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:10 p.m. In attendance were Bob Dow, Dan May, Paul Dahn, Justin Dutcher, Steve Hines, Andrew Casson and Jamie Knapp. Also in attendance was Harbormaster Paul Hogg.

**2. Minutes**

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2014 meeting as submitted. Dan May seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Paul Dahn abstaining.

**3. Public Comment**

Bob Dow moved to open the meeting to comments from the public. Andrew Casson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Bill Harris, 56 Lime Street, said he submitted a letter Commission concerning an issue he would like to discuss at the next meeting. He requested that the Harbor Commission work cooperatively with the Waterfront Trust and share the revenue from the leasing of the docks on the central waterfront. He said failure to do so might result in legal action by the Friends of the Newburyport Waterfront that would delay the Commission's ability to construct its new Transient Boaters' facility. The revenues the Waterfront Trust derives from parking are likely to decline in the future and the Trust would require an additional source of revenue to maintain its property. Mr. Harris said this revenue should be derived from the leasing of the submerged tidelands along the central waterfront bulkhead and in the embayment. Andrew Casson said that while cooperation would benefit both parties, a conflict exists between the 1992 amendment to the Declaration of Public Trust and the City Ordinance that must be resolved. Mr. Harris said in 1989 the NRA gave the leasing rights to the Harbor Commission but the action was superseded by agreements the City entered into in 1992.

Jack Van Loan, 4 F Street, asked if commercial boats use the pump-out station. Paul Hogg responded that the boats discharge waste three miles off shore.

**4. Transient Boaters' Facility Update**

Bob Dow said Geordie Vining is moving forward with applications for grants for the construction of the new facility. The design committee is looking to find ways in which costs could be cut without reducing the quality of the facility. The permitting process will get underway with plans showing the footprint as proposed. Construction might begin in the fall of 2015. Paul Hogg reported that because the size of his second-floor office would only be 360 square feet, the accessibility board has determined the installation of an elevator would not be required.

## **5. Subcommittee Reports**

### **Finance Committee**

No report.

### **Regulations, Safety and Moorings Committee**

No report.

### **Coast Guard City Liaison and Community Outreach Committee**

Dan May said the presentation of the Rybacki Award is to take place at the Custom House on August 2. He will make arrangements for the Cashman Award ceremony to take place at the event.

## **6. Pump-out Station**

A new pump at the station must be replaced at the cost of approximately \$20,000. A State grant would cover 75% of the expense, leaving a balance of \$5,000 to be paid by the Harbormaster's Department. Salisbury shares in the use of the pump-out station, but does not contribute to its cost. A letter was sent to the Salisbury Harbormaster requesting a contribution of \$2,500, which would be 50% of the cost of the new pump. The Salisbury Harbor Commission responded by letter that it would be willing to contribute what it sees as its fair share of the cost to rehabilitate the pump-out station but the contribution should reflect the usage of the facility. The letter stated that because three times as many boats are docked in Newburyport as in Salisbury, the Salisbury Harbor Commission is willing to contribute 25%, or \$904, towards the expense. Salisbury had been asked by the Commission to make a one-time payment. The Commission members now shall consider if Salisbury should be asked instead to share in the ongoing cost of maintaining the station. Some members might attend the next meeting of the Salisbury Harbor Commission.

## **7. Harbormaster's Report**

Paul Hogg reported that:

- work is being accelerated on the Whittier Bridge because the project is behind schedule. It might be necessary to shut the south channel of the river down completely. If this were the case, a tender would be put in place to open the bridge on the north channel.
- members of his staff discovered thieves in the process of stealing copper wire from the Whittier Bridge job site.
- he was very pleased with the work done by SPS on the bulkhead. The company has also installed new railings at the fish pier.
- he escorted a group of World War II veterans who were going out on a tour boat.
- a lighted boat parade will take place on August 1 at 9:00 p.m.
- he is assisting with the organization of a tuna and shark tournament that is to take place August 22 and 23.

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**8. General Business**

The Harbor Commission will not meet during the month of August. The next meeting will be scheduled for September 11.

**9. Adjournment**

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.