

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Harbormaster's Facility
July 11, 2018
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Andrew Casson called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 6:30 p.m. In attendance were Andrew Casson, Adam Armstrong, Bob Dow, Jamie Knapp, Chris Kealey, Justin Dutcher, Jay Lesynski and Dan May. Ron Thurlow was absent. Harbormaster Paul Hogg was also in attendance.

2. Minutes

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the June 6, 2018 meeting. Chris Kealey seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. House Float Ordinance

Paul Hogg, Adam Armstrong and Jamie Knapp attended a City Council subcommittee meeting at which the house float ordinance was discussed. The meeting was also attended by owners and neighbors of the house floats, Building Commissioner Peter Binette, Deputy Fire Chief Steve Bradbury and Jamie Tucolo of the Sewer Department. The house floats have been relocated from the Yankee Landing Marina to Salisbury and have been registered as vessels. City officials are not in favor of adopting a house float ordinance. Instead, the ordinance will define floating homes and ban them from Newburyport waters. There are now no house floats in the city that would be grandfathered. Jamie Knapp will update the draft ordinance immediately. Included will be the requirement that houseboats shall meet the standards of the Coast Guard Boatbuilder's Handbook.

4. Waterfront Trust Discussion

The plans for the disposition of the NRA property are continuing to evolve. It has been proposed that the ownership of the submerged tidelands be transferred jointly to the City and the Waterfront Trust, a concept that would be acceptable to the Public Settlers. The Commission members discussed this proposal, under which the Harbormaster would manage the entire waterfront. The tour boats could be determined through an RFP process. The Trust could enter into a lease agreement with the Harbor Commission for the embayment that would automatically renew every 99 years. The Waterfront Trust wishes to retain the \$25,000 in income it annually earns from the Transportation Dock. The Trust would also like to receive a percentage of the Harbor Commission's earnings from the central waterfront. The Commission members discussed the possibility of revenue sharing. If they were to agree to such a plan, any percentage should be based on net, rather than gross, earnings.

5. Subcommittee Reports

Regulations, Safety and Moorings

No report

Finance

No report

Coast Guard City Liaison and Community Outreach

The George Cashman Award ceremony will take place on Saturday, August 4.

Ordinance

Chris Kealey is working with Richard Jones and City Council members to clarify the ordinance with regards to dinghies. The fee schedule would be eliminated so that changes could be made without requiring an amendment to the ordinance.

6. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported:

- a positive article appeared in the *Daily News* about the flotilla of nine catamarans that visited the city on its way to Maine. The members of the group were impressed by the amenities of the new facility. Articles such as this could be posted on the Commission's website. A 185' cruise ship with 150 passengers also was in port recently.
- The lifeguards were involved with two rescues from the sand bar. In another incident, a man who had a stroke was rescued from his boat. An ambulance was waiting on the dock to take him to the hospital.
- The Notice of Intent has been completed for the new shed on Plum Island and shall be submitted to the Conservation Commission.
- A danger buoy indicating the presence of rocks was added at the Whittier Bridge. Details continue Fridays through Sundays and on holidays.
- he escorted the 101st Airborne Division, which was embarking on a whale watch trip for veterans as a part of the Home Base Adventure Series.
- In preparation for Yankee Homecoming, signage has been installed regarding the use of Cashman Park for the fireworks.
- He is working with Home Base, a veterans' program of Mass General Hospital and the Red Sox Foundation, to sponsor a safe boat in the Yankee Homecoming parade.
- He has been working with David Zinck to bring the electrical service to the docks up to code.

7. General Business

Meeting Schedule

Jamie Knapp moved that meetings of the Harbor Commission shall be held on the first Wednesday of each month, except for August, when no meeting shall be held. Dan May seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Seasonal Marker

The Commission members discussed installing a seasonal marker for the rocks by the Whittier Bridge. The cost would be higher enough to require that three bids be obtained. However, a liability issue would be created if the Commission were to become involved with designing aids to navigation. No action will be taken, as the rocks are not in the channel, the channel is lighted and a buoy is in place.

7. Public Comment

None

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8. Adjournment

Chris Kealey moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Jamie Knapp seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.