

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Harbormaster's Facility
July 12, 2023
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Jamie Knapp called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:05 p.m. In attendance were Justin Dutcher, Chris Charos, Adam Armstrong, George Sass, Bob Dow, Jay Lesynski and Jamie Knapp. Ron Thurlow was absent. Harbormaster Paul Hogg was also in attendance.

2. Minutes

Bob Dow moved to approve the minutes of the May 3 and June 7 meetings. Chris Charos seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. Committee Reports

a) Coast Guard City

Ron Thurlow recommended by email that the Commission schedule a meeting in the fall with the Custom House about the Coast Guard City designation. The Mayor was not aware of the role of the Commission in the establishment of Newburyport as a Coast Guard City and its work on the application to renew the designation. The level of responsibility the Custom House would be willing to assume is not known. The Commission is interested in maintaining its role and will keep its own records.

The plaque for the Cashman award has been received but it has not yet been mounted in the stone monument. The Station has not recommended a recipient of the award for 2022 or 2023.

b) Public Safety and Regulations

Ron Thurlow recommended by email that the Commission create a Federal Channel Adjustment Subcommittee. This could be a part of the Safety and Regulations Committee. Senator Tarr informed the members that an Act of Congress would be needed to change the channel. However, the Coast Guard has moved marker #7, which changes the location of the channel. Chris Charos said he believes markers # 11 and #27 are not in the correct locations, but the Coast Guard disagrees. A meeting with the Coast Guard could be scheduled to discuss their readjustment.

The next kayak Safety Class is scheduled for October.

4. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- A tall ship was in for Maritime Days. The event was a success despite the weather. It will be held two years going forward.
- He is in the process of wrapping up FY23 and getting FY24 started.
- The new boat is working out well and is ready for its 20-hour service.

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- Revenues at Plum Island and Cashman Park are down about 30% due to the weather.
- Things are going well on the central waterfront docks. Larger boats are coming in, which makes 100-amp service a necessity.
- The bulkhead work was divided into two contracts, which were both awarded to Boston Tug and Tow.
- The number of waterways permits sent out is 1,247, which is normal.
- Some boats in the marinas do not have permits. Warnings have been issued in the past and were largely ignored. He is considering notifying the marinas that fines will begin on a particular date.
- He has received phone calls about the relocation of channel marked #7.
- The DPS has been helpful in removing trees that have been washed into the river by the rains.

5. Adjournment

Justin Dutcher moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was approved.