

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Harbormaster's Facility
July 7, 2021
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Andrew Casson called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Andrew Casson, Bob Dow, Ron Thurlow, Jamie Knapp, George Sass and Adam Armstrong. Justin Dutcher was absent. Jay Lesynski was not in attendance so that he might represent the Commission at a meeting on dredging at City Hall. Paul Hogg was also in attendance.

2. Minutes

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2021, meeting as submitted. George Sass seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2021, meeting as submitted. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Committee Reports

a) Coast Guard City

Andrew Casson commended Ron Thurlow for his excellent work on the Coast Guard City redesignation package. A copy was delivered to the Station Merrimack River that was be sent to the First District. A second copy was sent to the Coast Guard in Washington. Some of the letters were incorrectly addressed. An updated package will be submitted.

b) Dredging

Mayor Holaday was not able to accept an invitation to attend the meeting. She sent an email about the problems encountered with dredging the area outside of the federal channel. Army Corps regulations would require an easement for the dredging of the expanded area. DCR could not accept an easement from the City without approval from the State legislature. This could take months to obtain and she is not willing to risk a delay in the project for the additional scope of work. The Army Corp district office suggested requesting a waiver from its headquarters for a non-standard right of entry. Such a waiver was sent in December for a dredging project on the Cape and a response has not yet been received. It seems the only option available would be for the City and DCR to be co-sponsors of the project. The required documents for this have been submitted but permitting might be an obstacle. The Mayor has contacted Anders Bjorklund of GZA, who will ask CZM if permitting is possible. The Waterfront Trust has an interest in dredging the embayment, as the docks are bottoming out at low tide. The members discussed the possibility of obtaining a regional dredge.

c) Waterfront Trust Lease

The Waterfront Trust has requested that a meeting take place with the Mayor and the Harbor Commission to discuss the draft lease. The position of the Harbor Commission has not

Newburyport Harbor Commission
July 7, 2021

changed. It does not intend to lease the bulkhead and at the same time be responsible for its repair.

Sasaki Associates has prepared three design concepts for the expanded park. Paul Hogg has emphasized the need for winter dock storage in the park. It might be necessary after the park has been constructed to slightly shift the location of the docks and gangway to accommodate the crane.

d) Public Relations/Community Outreach/Marketing

A FAQ section has been added to the website. George Sass will send a link to the members.

e) Finance

A final report on the past fiscal year will be available at the next meeting.

4. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported:

- There has been much interest generated by the 196-foot yacht *Bella Vitae*.
- He expects to learn shortly if funds for a new patrol boat will be awarded through a Port Security Grant.
- The condition of the bulkhead to the east of the embayment is being investigated.
- The season has been busy despite there being bad weather for both holiday weekends.
- A weekend patrol on the Mule is being done at low tide to maintain a presence on the beach in the absence of lifeguards.
- A kayak safety sign was provided to the fuel dock, but repeated requests to install it have been ignored. A kayak rescue was necessary in front of the office in the past week.

5. Other Business

Jamie Knapp has contacted the *Daily News* about advertising the vacancy on the Commission but has not received a response.

Andrew Casson moved to recommend to Mayor Holaday that the salary for the Harbormaster be corrected to be commensurate with that of other department heads in the City. George Sass seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Adjournment

Ron Thurlow moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Jamie Knapp seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.