

**Newburyport Harbor Commission**  
Online Meeting  
July 8, 2020  
Minutes

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Andrew Casson called an on-line meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Andrew Casson, Bob Dow, Justin Dutcher, Jamie Knapp, Jay Lesynski, Chris Kealey and George Sass. Adam Armstrong and Ron Thurlow were absent. Harbormaster Paul Hogg was also in attendance.

**2. Minutes**

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2020, meeting as submitted. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was approved by an 7-0 vote (George Sass, yes; Andrew Casson, yes; Bob Dow, yes; Justin Dutcher, yes; Jamie Knapp, yes; Jay Lesynski, yes; Chris Kealey, yes).

**3. Harbormaster's Report**

Paul Hogg reported:

- He has been very busy and it has been a challenging year so far. The third phase of the reopening of the state went into effect on July 6.
- He has received positive feedback about the discount for residents at the Plum Island parking lot.
- Merrell Electric will be installing 100-amp service on the docks.
- Two assistant harbormasters were rescued from the river on July 5 after their boat capsized. Both were experienced, having been with the department for many years, and fortunately were not hurt. The boat was backing away from the *Captain's Lady* dock at high tide. The dive door broke off and the boat took on water. The incident is being investigated. The account of a bystander reported in the *Daily News* was not necessarily accurate. The boat was taken to Crocker's Boat Yard to be inspected. Ron Thurlow said in an email that the root cause of the incident should be understood in order to prevent similar events in the future.

**4. Budget**

The budget must be submitted for the August 10 City Council meeting. The department heads are expected to cut their budgets. Paul Hogg said he does not expect the department will have a shortfall. Boating has increased this season, as it is one activity that can take place during the pandemic, and revenue has been higher than expected. Revenue from Cashman Park has increased 182%. Revenue from moorings and slips, the Plum Island parking lot and the central waterfront docks also has increased, although not as dramatically.

**5. Committee Reports**

**A) Coast Guard City**

Ron Thurlow suggested by email that a library could be created at the Station Merrimack River for books with a nautical theme. George Sass said he has books to donate.

**B) Dredging**

No report.

**C) Waterfront Trust**

No report.

**D) Public Relations/Community Outreach/Marketing**

Robert Bentley has the domain name *Newburyport harbor.com* and has agreed to give it to the City. George Sass sent a link to photographs that could be used to update the Dockwa site and provide a connection to the Coast Guard City designation. There is now a fee to use Dockwa, but more services are provided.

**6. General Discussion**

The August meeting will be cancelled.

**7. Adjournment**

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Justin Dutcher seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Harbor Commission will be scheduled for September 2.