

Newburyport Harbor Commission
City Hall Auditorium
July 9, 2015
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Brad Duffin called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:01 p.m. In attendance were Brad Duffin, Bob Dow, Chris Kealey, Dan May, Paul Rooney and Andrew Casson.

2. Minutes

Paul Rooney moved to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2015 meeting as amended. Andrew Casson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. New Business

Brad Duffin introduced Jim Reed, who wishes on behalf of realtor Robert Bentley and his business, Newburyport.com, to install three cameras on the Coast Guard Auxiliary building on Plum Island. He said the company currently uses 12 cameras to display images of the city on the Internet. The purpose of the cameras is to attract people to the community. The three cameras on Plum Island would show boat activity in a concentrated area. Mr. Reed said the cameras would benefit the Commission by providing a recording of any incidents that might take place on the river. He said the cameras would benefit the community as a whole by drawing visitors to Newburyport.

There is no Internet service at the Coast Guard Auxiliary building. Mr. Reed asked that the Commission supply Internet access at a cost of \$83 per month. Newburyport.com would provide the equipment and be responsible for its installation and maintenance but does not wish to pay for the cost of Internet service.

Bob Dow said it might be possible for the cameras to be connected via microwave transmission to the Internet at the new Harbormaster's facility. Cameras are in operation at all times at Station Merrimack River. The Coast Guard also has installed a camera on the bar.

Paul Rooney moved to refer the request to the Regulations, Safety and Moorings Committee. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Harbormaster's/Transient Boaters' Facility Financing

The City Council did not approve the use of a Green Community grant for the thin-film solar roof. The plans for the roof were added to the bid package without input from the Energy Advisory Committee, which does not recommend the use of the film. The members of the advisory committee believe the film does not provide a good return on investment because it has a limited life span. Mayor Holaday said the Harbor Commission should either eliminate the plans for a solar roof or use traditional panels. A decision does not need to be made at this time. The roof panels are not a part of the base bid and could be eliminated at a later date. Brad Duffin recommended that the facility subcommittee review the plans with the Energy Advisory Committee and the expert Geordie Vining consulted.

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The bond package for the facility will be a part of the packet for the July 13 City Council meeting. Mayor Holaday expects the item to be referred to the Budget and Finance Subcommittee and come out of committee for the August 10 City Council meeting.

5. Other Business

Mayor Holaday said she received a plaque commemorating Newburyport's designation as a Coast Guard City. Recertification would take place in 2017. The application would be due June 22, 2016. She also said she recently had a productive meeting with members of the Waterfront Trust. She asked that she receive copies of the financial documents of both the Trust and the Harbor Commission. She added the State legislature has expressed interest in increasing activity on the Merrimack River between Haverhill and Newburyport.

6. Harbormaster's Report

Brad Duffin read a written report submitted by Paul Hogg that included:

- four people were rescued from the Merrimack River over the Fourth of July weekend.
- information appeared in the *Daily News* and was sent to boaters by email on the extension of the no-wake zone from the Whittier Bridge to the end of the jetty.
- the northbound lane of the Whittier Bridge should be open by Thanksgiving. The existing bridge would then be demolished.
- eleven clam permits have been sold to date.
- he and his assistants have been training with the Coast Guard on boat handling and towing.
- he will install a sign at Cashman Park to notify boaters of the Yankee Homecoming fireworks.
- the 150-foot luxury yacht, *Bella Vita*, docked overnight in Newburyport recently.

Brad Duffin recommended that Paul Hogg advise kayakers to stay away from the mouth of the river.

7. Subcommittee Reports

Budget and Finance Committee

Andrew Casson said the request before City Council would be for a preliminary short-term bond. After the bids have been received and decisions have been made about the length and amount of the bond, a long-term bond would be requested.

Coast Guard City Liaison and Community Outreach Committee

Paul Rooney moved to nominate Travis Capps for the 2015 Cashman Award. He said among his many accomplishments, BM1 Capps has developed relationships with community leaders and manages events for the auxiliary community. The award would be made on August 4, the birthday of the Coast Guard. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

8. Adjournment

Paul Rooney moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.