

Newburyport Harbor Commission
City Council Chambers
September 8, 2016
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Brad Duffin called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:05 p.m. In attendance were Brad Duffin, Jamie Knapp, Chris Kealey, Dan May, Bob Dow, Andrew Casson, Paul Rooney and Justin Dutcher. Paul Dahn was absent. Harbormaster Paul Hogg was also present.

2. Minutes

Andrew Casson moved to approve the minutes of the July 16, 2016 meeting as submitted. Justin Dutcher seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. Subcommittee Reports

Regulations, Safety and Moorings Committee

On June 8, 2015 the City Council approved the request to change the Harbormaster's Department fee structure. The action was done as an order. Because of this, the changes appear on the City's website but are not reflected in the City Ordinance. The Committee will work with Richard Jones to make the new fee structure a part of the Ordinance. The changes are as follows:

- Addition of a \$10 minimum fee for the first hour.
- Cashman Park or Dock Usage Fee - \$300.00 for for-profit events, no fee for non-profit events.
- Dingy Fee - \$225.00 (increase from \$175.00)
- Plum Island Parking - \$10.00 weekdays, \$12.00 weekends (increase from \$8.00 and \$10.00)
- Fish Pier Docks - \$1,200.00 (increase from \$900.00)
- Late Waterways Renewal Fee - \$25.00 (applies after July 1)
- Waterways Permit - \$4.00 per foot (Not to be implemented until FY16)

Coast Guard City Liaison and Community Outreach Committee

Paul Rooney said he met with Senior Chief DiLenge regarding the Coast Guard City renewal application, which has been delayed. He said the application has not been denied and has in fact been endorsed by the Sector and the District, but Mayor Holaday has been made aware the City must do more in the future to support the Coast Guard. The designation of two cities has not been renewed this year because of a lack of participation. A new logbook has been created to replace the one that is missing. Mr. Rooney intends to contact other communities to learn how more can be done in Newburyport to support the Coast Guard.

Budget and Finance Committee

Andrew Casson said the City Council approved a \$60,000 temporary bond to cover overages and contingencies for the Harbormaster's Facility. No other major changes are expected because the remaining work is above ground.

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4. New Business

Mayor Holaday presented Brad Duffin with a certification of commendation for his 11 years of service on the Harbor Commission. She said he has been a great leader and thanked him for all his work. State Representative James Kelcourse read a letter signed by himself and Robert DeLeo, Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, congratulating Mr. Duffin on his years of service. Justin Dutcher presented a plaque from the Harbor Commission in appreciation of Mr. Duffin's dedicated service and outstanding accomplishments.

5. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- The docks were full beginning the Tuesday before Riverfest, which was held on Saturday, September 3. Cars on the day of the event were parked in the designated trailer area at Cashman Park. He will consider hiring a police detail for the event next year or designate an overflow parking area.
- The fall season has begun and the "no lifeguards on duty" signs have been installed. He said it was a busy and successful season. Matt Haden, Devin Murray and Meghan Kench were all credited with saving lives.
- He pulled the boats from the water, with the exception of the safe boat, in anticipation of a storm. They are now back in the water.
- He received a great deal of positive feedback at the dedication ceremony for the Fisherman's Memorial that was held on September 5. Over 200 people were in attendance. The members discussed installing perennials at the base of the monument and asking the Newburyport Garden Club to maintain it.
- He assisted with a wedding that was held on the *Captain's Lady* on September 3, the day of the Riverfest.
- The construction of the Harbormaster's facility is moving along quickly. The exterior soffits, rakes and shadow boards have been completed and the roof has been installed. The framing is nearly complete, as is the north deck. Work is beginning on the interior, the HVAC and plumbing systems and the mechanicals. Work on the walkway and associated decking will follow. A tentative decision was made to not install coin operated washers and dryers and include the expense in the dock fees.
- He had a positive meeting with Seth Moulton concerning grant money for dredging the river.
- He set up a free safety and survival training class for commercial fisherman. The Fishing Partnership will conduct the class, which will be held on November 3 at the Coast Guard Station. Topics include man overboard procedures, firefighting, the use of flares, survival suits, and life rafts, flood pump operations, helicopter hoist operations and first aid.
- A marine firefighter course will be held November 12.
- He and Ray Pike were successful in convincing Bridge Marina to move the docks back 28 feet so they will not intrude so far into the channel.
- He assisted with a shark and tuna tournament that was greatly successful. The event raised \$1,500 for the Newburyport Education Foundation.
- The Coast Guard Band will hold a free concert at the Nock Middle School on September 15.

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- He will begin looking into the issue of houseboats on the river. An abutter to the Yankee Landing Marina contacted Brad Duffin to ask about the Commission's responsibility in regulating houseboats. Three houseboats are docked at that marina. Mr. Duffin advised the abutter to contact his City Councilor and the Mayor's Office. The Harbor Commission currently has no jurisdiction over houseboats.

6. General Discussion

Bob Dow recommended the Harbormaster have his own website. He also suggested advertisements be placed in boating magazines when the new facility has been completed. Brad Duffin said the Commission might wish to consider adding fingers to the City docks. Paul Hogg would like to put a reservation system in place for the docks.

7. Adjournment

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Andrew Casson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission will take place on Thursday, October 13.