

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Harbormaster's Facility
October 11, 2023
Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. Minutes

Bob Dow moved to approve the minutes of the September 6 meeting. Jay Lesynski seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. Review of Watersheet and 10A Applications

a) 6 Jefferson Court

The applicant is proposing to install a fixed pier, to which would be attached a gangway that would rest on a 6' x 10' float. Three 8' x 16' season docks would be attached to the float. The gangway would be 37.5 feet in length in order to maintain 18 inches of water under the float at low tide. The abutter notification cards have been received. The Conservation Commission issued an Order of Conditions for the project with the condition that helical anchors shall be used for the floats if possible.

The applicant, Jeff Bailey, said he has a slip in a different location on the river where he plans to keep his existing boat. The proposed docks would be used for guests and for a 12-foot boat that he intends to acquire. He said is in the process of addressing questions about his application for a Chapter 91 license and the system has not yet been installed.

Bob Dow moved to approve the watersheet application for 6 Jefferson Court with the condition that the applicant shall notify the Harbor Commission when the Chapter 91 license has been approved and if any modifications are made to the plans during construction. Jamie Knapp seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

b) 8 Jefferson Court

A 10A permit application for 8 Jefferson Court was received and filed.

c) 2 Spofford Street

The applicant has not yet submitted the abutter notification cards or landscape plans. The item will be on the agenda of the next meeting.

4. Committee Reports

a) Coast Guard City

Jamie Knapp sent an email to the Mayor requesting a meeting to discuss the role of the Commission with regards to the management of the Coast Guard City designation.

b) Public Safety and Regulations

Paul Hogg said he participated in a Zoom call with the Mayor and Senator Markey's Office about the relocation of the federal channel. A follow-up call is scheduled for October 17 to discuss the next steps. He said attention is now being paid to the matter and movement is being made in the right direction.

The Army Corp stated at the recent MRBA meeting that 100 feet of the newly deposited sand has already been lost. It is estimated that the sand will last for three years. The rate of erosion places an emphasis on the need for a maintenance dredging plan.

5. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- He had 20 CSO signs made for locations along the river and the marinas. The Health Department will be responsible for keeping the information available by scanning the QR code on the signs up to date.
- The new pump station has been installed. The current location is an improvement over the previous one.
- The docks will be taken out on November 13 and will be stored at Cashman Park due to the construction of the central waterfront park.
- Two individuals were rescued by Harbormaster's Department staff members after their boat capsized at the mouth of the river on October 1.
- The free cash has been certified.

6. Adjournment

Bob Dow moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. Jay Lesynski seconded the motion. The motion was approved.