

**Newburyport Harbor Commission**  
Harbormaster's Facility  
October 2, 2019  
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 Adam Armstrong, Andrew Casson, Bob Dow, Ron Thurlow, Chris Kealey, Justin Dutcher and Jay Lesynski. Jamie Knapp was absent. Harbormaster Paul Hogg was also in attendance.

**2. Minutes**

Bob Dow moved to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2019, meeting as submitted. Chris Kealey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**3. Ordinances**

A discussion of the ordinances was tabled to the December meeting. The fees will be reviewed at the November meeting.

**4. George Cashman Award**

The presentation of the Cashman award will take place upstairs at the Black Cow. Joe Leone will donate food for the event. Possible dates are November 12 or 19, which are Tuesdays, or November 3 or 17, which are Sundays. Mayor Holaday and members of the City Council will be invited to attend, as well as the state legislators and Frank Cousins.

**5. Action Committees**

**A) Dredging**

Adam Armstrong reported he recently met with Mayor Holaday. She traveled to Washington to meet with representatives of Senator Markey's office and the Army Corp. She asked that the Harbor Commission not become involved with sending emails to congressmen at this time. The Commission members discussed the safety implications about not taking some form of action. The Coast Guard would be willing to state in writing that at low tide it is sometimes not possible get a 47' vessel out of the mouth in order to cover the station's region. This could help to elevate the risk rating for the Merrimack River. The Harbor Commission could submit a letter of its own. Paul Hogg suggested members of the subcommittee meet with Ed O'Donnell, Sean Crane, Mark Cutter and the senior chief of the Station Merrimack River. The purpose of the meeting would be to review the risk rating of the City. The Salisbury Harbormaster and chair of the Salisbury Harbor Commission could be asked to attend as well. The meeting would help the Commission provide to the City the data necessary for its decision-making process.

The dredging of the mouth is a topic of discussion at the Merrimack River Beach Alliance meetings. In order for the spoils from the dredging of the channel to be placed on the beach rather than offshore, it would be necessary to conduct a cost/benefit analysis through a 204 report. The Woods Hole Group issued a report stating a regional dredge

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would not to be viable. The Plum Island Foundation is working with a lobby group that tracks Army Corp spending.

**B) Public Relations/Community Outreach**

No report.

**C) Coast Guard City**

An account to locally support members of the Coast Guard will be administered through the Hines Soldiers Assistance Found. Funds are on hand to establish the account. The account will be a part of the Coast Guard City log. It was suggested that Rockland, Maine be used as a source of ideas for support activities. Andrew Casson suggested contacting Woodman's of Essex about sponsoring a clambake.

**6. Harbormaster's Report**

Paul Hogg reported:

- one of the assistant harbormasters received a citation at a recent City Council meeting for his work to rescue victims of a boating accident.
- on September 27, he took a number of senators out on the river to discuss CSOs, beach erosion, dredging, safety and the importance of boating to the economic health of the city.
- the docks will be taken out of the water on October 28 and will be stored on the central waterfront.
- two new motors are needed for the safe boat. Electrical currents in the water could be the cause of the damage. Jay Lesynski will perform an electrolysis test as soon as possible.

**7. Other Business**

Mayor Holaday asked that a member of the Harbor Commission be appointed to attend CSO meetings and to log observations on water quality. Chris Kealey would be willing to take on the role.

**8. Adjournment**

Chris Kealey moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Harbor Commission will take place on Wednesday, November 6.