

Newburyport Harbor Commission

City Hall Conference Room

January 12, 2012

Minutes

1. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission was called to order by Chairman Brad Duffin at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Neil Bleicken, Andrew Casson, Brad Duffin, Steve Hines, Paul Rooney, Justin Dutcher and Bob Dow. Also in attendance was Harbormaster Paul Hogg.

2. Minutes

Andrew Casson moved to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2011 meeting as amended. Paul Rooney seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Vendor Presentation on Mooring Field Software

Paul Hogg invited Brad Hurley of On-Line Mooring to the meeting to discuss a website that might be used to manage the mooring field. The website could be used to issue permits, manage waiting lists, communicate with boaters and post charts. The public would be able to use the website to find available berths or apply for permits. The software would allow the Commission to send mass emails or view the mooring field. Photographs of boats could be attached to applications in order to assist in search and rescue operations. An online processing fee could be charged to the applicant. Paul Hogg said the software might first be used to manage the mooring field and later for waterways permits. The Commission might consider purchasing its own software. The issue will be discussed further at the February meeting.

4. Coast Guard City Celebration

Lois Honegger, Ann Ormond and Mayor Holaday attended the meeting to discuss the Coast Guard City celebration. A maritime ball that would focus on the Coast Guard might take place on August 4, the last Saturday of Yankee Homecoming. The Custom House might be used for a reception and the ball might be held under a tent on the lawn. There would be a significant cost to the event. A tent, floor and tables would be needed. The Coast Guard Foundation might be able to assist with funding. It was suggested that Ritchie Eaton and Charlie Cullen also be contacted. Brad Duffin offered to speak at a Chamber of Commerce meeting about the importance of the event and its connection to the development of the waterfront. Ann Ormond said the celebration that was held in Portsmouth, Virginia, took place over five days and included a fly over, breakfasts and a memorial ceremony. She will continue to look into what has been done by Chambers of Commerce in other cities. The organizers of Yankee Homecoming should be brought into the discussion as soon as possible. The Coast Guard was the original focus of Yankee Homecoming. Paul Rooney read the official proclamation, which was signed by Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr. The declaration states that in 1965 Newburyport was declared the birthplace of the Coast Guard. A press release that has been coordinated

with the Coast Guard should be issued. Paul Rooney said he will be contacting the Coast Guard Band and Honor Guard about attending the event. He would like the band to march in the Yankee Homecoming parade. The Boston Harbor Cruise fireboat would give a display at no charge if it would be able to get into the river. The committee to work on the event will include Lois Honegger, Mayor Holaday, Ann Ormond, Paul Rooney, Paul Hogg, a representative from Yankee Homecoming and a representative from the Coast Guard. Paul Rooney said that Scott Brown wishes to be involved with the event. A sign indicating that Newburyport is a Coast Guard City should be installed on Route 95 at exit 57. The Commandant may want to be present at the ceremony for the presentation of the proclamation, but not necessarily the ball. The ceremony could place on Saturday, August 4 and the ball on Friday, August 3. The main events of the celebration will be: 1) the ceremony, 2) the ball, 3) the Yankee Homecoming parade in which the band will participate and 4) Coast Guard assets such as a fly over.

A log must be maintained on support activities, such as the provision of pizza and cookies for recertification of being a Coast Guard City.

5. Request for Documentation on Float Permits

Neil Bleicken said Joe Brown of the Waterfront Trust questioned Paul Hogg about the Harbor Commission having the proper permits for floats on the central waterfront. The status of the floats is uncertain and research is needed. Bob Dow said he thinks they have been grandfathered. Hans Erwich stated in an email to Brad Duffin that Chapter 91 gives the Harbormaster the right to issue annual permits for docks and the Harbor Commission follows the City ordinance. A copy of the email was forwarded to Joe Brown. The floats owned by the Waterfront Trust are delinquent, as the Trust has not been issued a waterways permit. Brad Duffin asked Bob Dow to send a letter to the Waterfront Trust.

6. Request to Allow Fueling at the Fish Pier

The Waterfront Trust has voted that for the upcoming season only the *Prince of Whales* would be allowed to obtain fuel at the Transportation Dock. Bob Dow said Ralph Steele had sent a letter to Chief Cutter stating he was opposed to fueling at the Transportation Dock and the Fish Pier would be an appropriate location for the activity.

7. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- he met with Jack Sheppard about the Towle barn. The structure might be moved to the back of the baseball field where there is an existing foundation.
- the State has offered to reconstruct the pier at Cashman Park. The pier would be made longer and the decking would be replaced. A gate would be installed at the dinghy dock. The State uses the funds from fishing licenses for these types of projects. Paul Rooney moved to allow the State to invest in Cashman Park. Neil Bleicken seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- repair work is being done at the Joppa Park ramp during the off-season.
- the *Lisa Ann II* has moved to its winter port.
- the "keep off" signs have been installed on the docks that are stored in the parking lot.
- there will be a safety course for children held on April 3.

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- he is preparing the 2012 excise tax bills.

8. Other Business

Brad Duffin said a winter meeting with the marina owners and operators should be held in March.

9. Adjournment

Bob Dow moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Neil Bleicken seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.