

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Newburyport Public Library Program Room
January 14, 2016
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Brad Duffin called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Brad Duffin, Jamie Knapp, Paul Rooney, Chris Kealey and Bob Dow. Paul Dahn, Andrew Casson, Dan May and Justin Dutcher were absent. Harbormaster Paul Hogg was also in attendance.

2. Minutes

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2015 meeting as submitted. Paul Rooney seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. Subcommittee Reports

Budget and Finance Committee

No report.

Regulations, Safety and Moorings

The subcommittee will present a list of topics relating to the City Ordinance for review at the next meeting.

Coast Guard City Liaison and Community Outreach Committee

Paul Rooney and Justin Dutcher are working together to obtain a letter Mayor Holaday received indicating the steps that must be taken for the renewal of the Coast Guard City designation.

4. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- an ice breaker is on site at the Whittier Bridge.
- excise tax bills were sent out with the new software system. The response has been excellent and fewer bills have been returned with incorrect addresses.
- he met with the Army Corp. and the Coast Guard about dredging the channel. He will work with Jamie Knapp to draft a letter of support for dredging to be sent to the Army Corp. The Army Corp. has surveyed the channel. While the full report has not yet been received, a low tide depth of 6.5 feet was found between channel markers 8 and 20. The lack of depth creates a safety concern for larger vessels, especially emergency response boats. The Coast Guard cancelled a SARS call recently due to the shallow depth in the channel.
- the revised bid package for the Harbormaster and Transient Boaters' Facility is expected to be advertised for construction on January 27. If an award is made in late February or early March, construction would begin in April.
- he will meet with the State on January 15 to discuss a fishing clinic that is being planned for Cashman Park in October.
- he is beginning to work on the FY17 budget, which is due February 12.

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5. General Discussion

The Commission members discussed the need to mark the submerged rocks near the Whittier Bridge. While these rocks are outside of the channel, the location of the new bridge piers could cause boaters to become confused. They also talked about pursuing funding for dredging at the mouth of the river and the possibility of stockpiling the dredged material for use on the island.

6. Public Comment

Peter Fitzsimmons, 7 Arlington Street, asked for an update on the Harbormaster's facility. Brad Duffin explained the project has been redesigned but because the package has not yet been put back out to bid, the cost is still unknown. He said the figures for construction would be high due to the prevailing wage requirement. The Commission is seeking to attract visitors to the waterfront while keeping the cost of doing so low.

7. Adjournment

Paul Rooney moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. Chris Kealey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission will take place on Thursday, February 11.