

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Hybrid Meeting
December 1, 2021
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Andrew Casson called a hybrid meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Andrew Casson, Bob Dow, Jamie Knapp, Adam Armstrong, Justin Dutcher and Jay Lesynski. Ron Thurlow participated remotely. George Sass is on a leave of absence. Harbormaster Paul Hogg was also in attendance.

2. Minutes

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2021, meeting. Justin Dutcher seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote (Andrew Casson, yes; Bob Dow, yes; Justin Dutcher, yes; Jamie Knapp, yes; Adam Armstrong, yes; Ron Thurlow, yes; Jay Lesynski, yes).

3. Open Position

The open position was posted in the *Daily News* for a short amount of time and will be readvertised. A notice will also be posted on the website. Norm Boucher, who was interviewed at the November meeting, has decided to withdraw from consideration. Potential candidates will be interviewed at the January meeting.

4. Committee Reports

a) Coast Guard City

The Coast Guard City renewal application has been received. A decision is expected in the next four to five weeks. Jamie Knapp will draft the language for a plaque to commemorate the Station Merrimack River as the recipient of the George Cashman Award. The Parks Department must approve the location for the plaque. The Planning Department will assist in its production.

b) Dredging

Adam Armstrong said the subcommittee will meet with the Planning Department and the Salisbury Harbor Commission about permitting for the dredging project. The next step would be to contact DCR and GZA. There is a concern that there might be more competition during the next grant cycle and funding would be sought for larger harbors. It might be beneficial to consider two alternatives with different scopes of work. The focus of the Commission is the creation of a channel that can be safely navigated. The sand could be placed off shore, where it might be deposited on the beach during storms. A portion of the Plum Island parking fee is earmarked for a dredging fund, but its use would require that the sand be placed on the beach. The Commission might consider adding a dredging fund to its fee schedule. A fee of \$25 per boat would bring in approximately \$100,000 every three years.

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Ron Thurlow said delays in dredging have made the mouth of the river unsafe. The Commission might consider designating funds collected through a fee to the exploration of alternatives to dredging, such as the scraping of the sand bar.

c) Finance

Justin Dutcher will prepare charts on the financial position.

d) Public Relations/Community Outreach/Marketing

No update.

5. Market Landing Park

There have been no new developments with regards to the plan for the storage of the docks in the expanded park.

6. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- He attended a wrap-up meeting on the season with the Coast Guard, Fire Department and Salisbury Harbormaster.
- In preparation for the transition of the administration, he prepared a department report that included a list of needed capital improvements.
- The excise tax bills have been sent.
- An anti-graffiti group cleaned up vandalism done to the Plum Island restrooms.
- He will travel to Seattle this month to meet with a sales representative about the new boat.

7. Adjournment

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote (Andrew Casson, yes; Bob Dow, yes; Justin Dutcher, yes; Jamie Knapp, yes; Adam Armstrong, yes; Ron Thurlow, yes; Jay Lesynski, yes).