

Newburyport Harbor Commission

Harbormaster's Facility

December 4, 2019

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Andrew Casson called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were Adam Armstrong, Andrew Casson, Bob Dow, Ron Thurlow, Justin Dutcher, Jay Lesynski and Chris Kealey. Jamie Knapp was absent. Harbormaster Paul Hogg was also in attendance.

2. Minutes

Bob Dow moved to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2019, meeting as submitted. Chris Kealey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Interview for Open Position

The members interviewed the only candidate who submitted a letter of interest for the vacancy on the Commission. George Sass said he has worked in boat yards since he was 11. He worked in production for Grand Banks Yachts and at *Soundings* and *Power and Motor Yacht* magazines and was the Editor-in-Chief for *Yachting Magazine*. He moved to Newburyport in June and wishes to become involved in the community. He has a general understanding of the responsibilities of the Harbor Commission. He said he travels for work but would be able to arranged his schedule around Commission meetings.

4. Ordinances and Fees

Andrew Casson said he, Ron Thurlow and Paul Hogg meet with Mayor Holaday, Matt Coogan, Steve Hines, Wilbur Shenk, Geordie Vining and Andy Port about the joint ownership of the submerged tidelands. The Waterfront Trust submitted a draft lease agreement. The Trustees wants to receive approximately 1.7% of the gross revenue from the central waterfront in addition to \$5,000 for securing the docks to the bulkhead. The City wants net revenue figures to be used.

Jamie Knapp provided the Commission members with a draft rate schedule prior to the meeting. The rates were last raised five years ago. Over this time, the minimum wage has increased, which drives up all wages. The increased fees would be comparable to those charges in other communities and the structure would be simplified. An overnight per-foot rate would be charged. The rate would be cut by 50% for stays of less than four hours. The proposal was that vessels under 50 feet would be charged \$3 per foot on weekdays, \$4 per foot on weekends and \$6 per foot during festivals. The rate for boats between 50 and 100 feet would be \$4, \$6 and \$7 for these periods and \$5, \$6 and \$8 would apply to boats over 100 feet. The rate for the use of the dinghy dock would be \$25. There would be no charge for inflatables under 12 feet with Newburyport stickers except for when special events are taking place. The cost of waterways and moorings permits would increase \$1 per foot. The cost for the fish pier would increase from \$1,200 to \$1,700, which includes parking and the use of the hoist. The rates for the Plum Island parking lot would increase to \$12 for residents on weekdays and \$15 for weekends and holidays. Non-residents would pay \$15 on

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weekdays and \$20 on weekends and holidays. Justin Dutcher will prepare a document outlining the proposed changes and Charles Tontar will be asked to be the City Council sponsor.

5. George Cashman Award

The presentation of the Cashman Award took place at the Black Cow on Sunday, November 17.

6. Action Committees

A) Dredging

None

B) Public Relations/Community Outreach

None

C) Coast Guard City

Ron Thurlow has communicated with Dan May about help in filling out the log book. Andrew Casson will contact Paul Rooney for additional information about past events.

7. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg said:

- The excise tax bills were sent out with a printer's error. The printer paid for the cost of sending a follow-up letter.
- Waterways permits will be sent out in March.
- A CPR and first aid training will take place on January 11.
- He has met with the City Auditor about the inconsistencies in deposits. He will prepare a spreadsheet showing his deposits. Going forward the deposits will be reviewed quarterly.
- He received a quote of \$38,000 for two new engines. He will obtain two additional quotes and will also look at other brands for which maintenance might be less problematic.

8. Executive Session

The Commission members entered into an executive session at 9:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the candidate for the vacant position. The executive session was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Ron Thurlow moved to recommend that George Sass be appointed as an alternative member of the Harbor Commission. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Andrew Casson abstaining.

9. Adjournment

Bob Dow moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. Justin Dutcher seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Harbor Commission will take place on Wednesday, January 8.