

Newburyport Harbor Commission
City Hall Conference Room
February 9, 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, Paul Rooney, Justin Dutcher, Jamie Knapp and Bob Dow. Also in attendance was Harbormaster Paul Hogg.

2. Minutes

Neil Bleicken moved to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2012 meeting as amended. Paul Rooney seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Coast Guard City Celebration

Paul Rooney said a meeting of the Coast Guard City Celebration committee took place on February 6. It was decided at the meeting the ball would be held on August 3. There was a concern among committee members about the costs associated with the event. There are mainly junior personnel at the Coast Guard Station and if the price of tickets is too high, they would not be able to attend. The James Montgomery band is scheduled to play on the waterfront that night, which would create a conflict in terms of both noise and parking. It was decided that a venue such as the Elks Lodge would be preferable. An indoor location would reduce expenses because neither a tent nor port-a-potties would have to be rented. It would also have the advantage of being bug free and air-conditioned. A final decision must be made on the venue.

The proclamation ceremony will be held on August 4 on the lawn of the Custom House and the reception held inside. Bob Dow will head a float committee for the Yankee Homecoming parade. Paul Rooney will work on arrangements for the fireboat display. As low tide would be at 8:00 a.m. on August 4, the boat might need to come in at night and be put on a mooring. He said the city of Rockland created passports for Coast Guard personnel that contained coupons for free items such as ice cream cones. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for February 29.

4. Committee Assignments

Brad Duffin distributed a list of committee assignments, which are as follows:

- Regulations, Safety and Moorings
 Jamie Knapp, Bob Dow, Justin Dutcher
- Coast Guard City Liaison and Public Relations
 Paul Rooney, Paul Dahn, Neil Bleicken
- Long-range Planning
 Steve Hines, Neil Bleicken, Jamie Knapp
- Finance
 Andrew Casson, Justin Dutcher, Steve Hines

Bob Dow suggested the long-range planning committee be committee of whole. At each meeting the chairman will report on the work of the committee. The members of the subcommittee will be responsible for the agenda and priorities of the committee of the whole.

5. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- he is a member of the committee that is making arrangements for the *HMS Bounty* to visit the City on July 12.
- the megayacht SeaFair is scheduled to be in port from August 27 to September 1.
- he informed Mayor Holaday that he would not be interested in staffing Newbury section of Plum Island with lifeguards.
- he would like to install a lock box in the Plum Island parking lot such as is in place at Cashman Park.
- Mayor Holaday inquired about a Plum Island parking sticker for residents. Andrew Casson moved to create a Newburyport resident pass for the Plum Island beach parking lot at a cost of \$75 for the season. Jamie Knapp seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- the mooring committee should further investigate the mooring software and obtain a quote from the company. Brad Duffin asked him to determine if an ordinance change would be required in order to charge boaters an on-line fee.
- new radios for the lifeguards were donated by the Fire Department.

6. Other Business

- a meeting for the marina owners and operators should be held during the first week in April.
- the budget for the upcoming fiscal year is being prepared. A bathroom for the Harbormaster's shack should be a part of the budget.
- Andy Port should be asked to attend a meeting to discuss the possibility of dredging at the Fish Pier.
- there is clutter at the Fish Pier and the fishermen are disposing of fish parts in the City's trash receptacle.
- the fee for the use of the docks at the Fish Pier was discussed. The docks were upgraded at an expense of \$120,000. Fishermen who use the docks pay \$900 for the season, which includes parking, utilities and the use of the hoist. Those not using the docks pay \$300 per year to use the hoist. The fee in Salisbury is \$90 per foot. A reverse auction, a per-foot fee or a flat fee might be used. The mooring committee should discuss if it would like to propose to the City Council a change in the ordinance that would allow a rate increase.

7. Adjournment

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Paul Rooney seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.