

Newburyport Harbor Commission
City Council Chamber
March 10, 2011
Minutes

1. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission was called to order by acting chair Neil Bleicken at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Neil Bleicken, Andrew Casson, Bob Dow and Jamie Knapp. Also in attendance was Harbormaster Paul Hogg.

2. Minutes

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the February 10 meeting as amended. Andy Casson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Watersheet Application

The Waterfront Trust has not yet submitted a watersheet application. Bob Dow said that according to the City Ordinance the westerly boundary of the fairway is located at the point where the centerline of Green Street meets the river. Neil Bleicken pointed out that Cliff Goudey had attended the previous meeting to obtain a preliminary opinion on an application and the Harbor Commission has not yet responded. A letter should be sent to the Waterfront Trust stating the proposed addition to the Transportation Dock would in all likelihood meet with significant challenges because the Harbormaster agreed it would present a hazard to navigation as presented and would be prohibited by the City Ordinance. Bob Dow said the letter should indicate that the Harbor Commission is not opposed to the creation of a water taxi service. Andy Casson said he would be willing to work with the Waterfront Trust to find an acceptable location for docking the water taxi. Neil Bleicken moved that Andy Casson would send a letter to the Waterfront Trust that the Harbor Commission drafted. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Meeting with Marina Owners

Jamie Knapp said the North End Boat Club would host the meeting. The date of the meeting has not yet been determined.

5. Coast Guard Cities Application

Neil Bleicken said progress is being made on the application. He proposed a theme might be that Newburyport is a remarkable city and the Coast Guard has played a key role in taming its dangerous waters. A meeting with the Mayor is scheduled for March 17.

6. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported:

- the excise tax bills were sent out last week. The bills now can be sent out on line.
- 12 bid spec sheets for the new docks went out. Neil Bleicken reported the Mayor has said this is a priority item and she predicts no significant opposition from the City Council. Bob Dow reviewed the proper procedures for opening the bids.

March 10, 2011

- he would like to have a “pay and display” parking system for the Cashman Park lot like the one to be instituted downtown. He wants the parking and ticketing revenue to go into the Harbormaster’s account. The cost of the machine is \$12,000. Neil Bleicken moved that the ticket machine for Cashman Park be added to the City’s order. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- he received a request from Kate Yeomans to allow the *Captain George* to tie up at the city docks for loading at 9:00 a.m. and unloading at 3:30 p.m. for two weeks for boat camp. The members of the Commission decided it would be appropriate to waive the fee because the group is a non-profit one. Bob Dow said this is a prime example of the way in which the Transportation Dock should be used. Paul Hogg said he does not know if the new docks will have been installed by the time of the boat camp but he will accommodate the group by whatever means possible.
- a bill was received for \$2,600 for the replacement light on the boardwalk. Bob Dow he should obtain quotes for its installation and pay the bill.
- Geordie Vining is looking for funds for dredging at the Fish Pier. Mayor Holaday is planning to attend a meeting of the Seaport Council in Gloucester on April 7, which might be a source of funding for repairing the bulkhead.
- boaters have begun purchasing their Waterways permits.

7. Adjournment

Andy Casson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.