

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Planning Department Office
March 14, 2013
Minutes

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission was called to order by Chair Brad Duffin at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Justin Dutcher, Steve Hines, Bob Dow, Andrew Casson and Jamie Knapp. Dan May, Paul Rooney and Paul Dahn were absent.

2. Minutes

Justin Dutcher moved to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2013 meeting as amended. Jamie Knapp seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Clipper City Rail Trail Phase Two

Geordie Vining presented the plans for the second phase of the Rail Trail, which would extend from the eastern edge of the central waterfront to Parker Street in Newbury. He intends to submit a comprehensive preliminary plan to DOT in the next few weeks. The Rail Trail meets the boardwalk at the Harbormaster's facility and Fish Pier. A brick plaza installed at this location would act as a trailhead. The trail would be separated from the parking at the Fish Pier by a wooden guardrail. Brad Duffin suggested that the boundary between the trail and Oldies be improved with plant materials and angle parking be used at the Fish Pier. He asked for comments from the public.

Bill Harris, 56 Lime Street, said the lawn behind the Custom House is important to the Maritime Museum's fundraising events. He added that the land was taken by eminent domain by the NRA with the stipulation it be used as a part of a museum complex. He said if the land is to be used for another purpose, its appraised value must be paid into a HUD trust fund. Lon Hachmeister, 281 High Road, Newbury, asked if wood might be used for the path. Mr. Vining said a pile-supported walkway would extend over the embayment near the Starboard Galley. Elizabeth Petty, 57 Purchase Street, asked if stone dust could be used for the path. Mr. Vining said that asphalt is the best surface for accessibility.

4. Subcommittee Reports
Finance Committee

Andrew Casson said the draft budget has been sent to Mayor Holaday for her review. Paul Hogg said he met with the Mayor and was asked to provide more detail on some items, but this did not result in the change of any figures.

5. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- he attended a meeting at the Coast Guard Station about the Whittier Bridge project. During the work, which is expected to begin in May, one of the two channels will remain open at all times. The location of the ledges is to be marked as a part of the project. He suggested that monthly meetings be held in order that up-to-date information is available

to be passed along to boaters. Most of the major work will be done during the off-season. He is concerned the staging area will present a problem for boaters.

- he is working to gather email addresses from boaters in order that he might easily communicate any important messages to them.
- he is beginning to receive revenue from the delinquent excise tax bills that were sent out earlier in the month. The mailing of the current excise tax bills has been delayed due to changes in MUNIS. The Waterways permit applications will follow the excise tax bills by two weeks.
- the lifeguards are being given a written test and a pool test at the YWCA.
- the assistant harbormasters are continuing to take classes on Tuesday nights.
- Paddlesmart Day is scheduled for June 22.
- boater safety courses, which are free to the public, are scheduled for April 2, 10 and 17.
- he has been meeting with the marina managers.
- Wednesdays are being added as days the pump-out boat will be in use. Owners who wish to have unattended boats be pumped out will be asked to submit a signed release.
- the docks will be installed around the middle of April and an in-water inspection of the docks is planned for May 18.
- in an article in the *Daily News*, the Coast Guard stated the condition of the sandbars at the mouth of the river has improved since last year.
- additional funds were received to extend the work on the jetty. The parking lot at the point was damaged during the work and is to be replaced.
- he will travel to Buffalo, New York next week to pick up a 25-foot Coast Guard safe boat with a tri-axle trailer he is obtaining free of charge. The boat will require the purchase of twin engines and he would like a pump to be installed on the front of the boat. He expects the cost on the engines and electronics to approach \$50,000. He plans to use the boat for rescues, major holidays, fires, bad weather and training with the drive team. He will have control of the boat but the fire and police departments may use it also and will contribute to the operating costs.

6. General Business

- Members must submit a current certificate of completion of the on-line ethics training course to the City Clerk.
- The next meeting of the Harbor Commission is scheduled for April 11.

7. Adjournment

Andrew Casson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Jamie Knapp seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.