

Minutes for Harbor Commission Meeting on 03/20/14

Please find below the bulleted topics that were covered during our meeting that took place at Newburyport High School on 03/20/14.

- Meeting called to order at 1900. All members aside from Commissioners Dahn and Rooney were present.
- Draft minutes from the meeting of 01/09/14 were approved by Commissioners Dow and May
- Georgie Vining presented on the new Harbor Master / Boaters Facility progress
 - Two site audits have taken place in Scituate and Marblehead
 - Pro's and Con's of both location were discussed
 - Next hurdle to focus on was running a sewer line to the proposed location
 - Discussions have been had with the NRA and Newburyport Development
 - Alternative routes are being looked into in an attempt to avoid both properties
 - The site of the facility was then discussed
 - Due to construction it was advised that the Fisherman's Memorial would have to be temporarily moved and a discussion was had to tie it into where the boardwalk and rail trail intersect
 - Chairman Duffin spoke to concerns about moving too far forward without the sewer issue being put to rest
 - Bill Harris who was in attendance spoke to a proposed sewer line running along the east side of the Customs House and would look into this further for Georgie
 - Running the sewer down Customs House Way was also discussed, but ruled out due to the narrow entrance between the two buildings and the cost to replace the walkway that is already in place.
 - A question was raised by a member in attendance about the design and appearance of the facility.
 - Georgie and Commissioner Dow both addressed the question and advised that the design is still pending, but we are looking to have a facility that is low maintenance and one that will stand the test of time. The building should appear as it has been there forever.
- Sub-Committee Reports
 - Commissioner Knapp advised that the research that was done of other harbors determined that no one is currently charging a minimum based upon hours of dock usage
 - Commissioner Casson & Harbormaster Hogg presented the proposed Budget
 - A discussion was had regarding capital improvements and the building spending

- Harbormaster Hogg spoke to the community agreements that are in place with Amesbury and Salisbury along with the mission statement of the department
 - A motion to submit the proposed budget was put forth by Commissioners Dutcher and Dow
- Harbormasters Report
 - Update was provided on shell fishing
 - Looking forward to a strong spring after a good fall
 - Looking to turn over the flats and possible seeding with oysters could take place
 - Looking to update an existing ordinance to limit paddle boarding between the icebreaker and Carr Island
 - Cashman Park
 - Waiting to order new pump
 - Grant is already in place to cover expense
 - Site work for pier is currently taking place
 - Excise take bills have been sent out, waterways will follow shortly
 - A newsletter will go out to all boaters with their permits
 - Whittier Bridge construction to be one of the topics covered
 - 08/01/14 will be the date for an evening boat parade to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the city
 - To take place between the icebreaker and Carr Island
 - South Jetty
 - Still working to secure a light
 - Work appears to be short by 50 feet
 - Concerns have been raised about the end of the jetty
 - Working with the Coast Guard to do what they can
 - Boaters Safety classes will be held on May 22nd, 29th and June 5th
- General Discussion
 - The grant that the Harbormaster sent out is going to be reviewed by Commissioner Hines to see if the department will qualify
 - Harbormaster is going to reach out to his contact Stephanie and invite her to one of our upcoming meetings to bring her up to speed on our progress.
- Motion to adjourn was put forth by Commissioner Casson and seconded by Commissioner Dutcher