

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Harbormaster's Facility
March 2, 2020
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Andrew Casson called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Adam Armstrong, Andrew Casson, Bob Dow, Justin Dutcher, Jay Lesynski, Chris Kealey, Jamie Knapp and George Sass. Ron Thurlow was absent. Harbormaster Paul Hogg was also in attendance.

2. Minutes

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2020, meeting as amended. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Ordinances and Fees

Several meetings have taken place with the City Council budget and finance subcommittee. The only proposal that generated discussion was the increased fees for the Plum Island parking lot. Some councilors did not approve of raising the rate for residents. Others wanted to increase the hours of the lot instead of raising the rates, but this would create staffing problems. Pending approval from the Harbor Commission, it was agreed that the rate for residents would remain at \$10 for weekdays and \$12 on weekends and holidays. The rate for non-residents would increase to \$15 on weekdays and \$20 on weekends and holidays.

Councilor Sharif Zeid wants the Harbor Commission to support island residents by setting up a fund for beach nourishment. The Commission had previously agreed to donate \$1 for each car to the City for a fund that would be used to nourish the public portions of the beach. The members agreed to increase this donation to 10% of the gross revenue of the lot.

Justin Dutcher moved to approve the rate increases as discussed with the City Council budget and finance subcommittee and to increase the amount allocated to a fund for the nourishment of the public portions of the beach and dredging from the previously agreed upon \$1 to 10% of the gross revenue from the lot. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

The process to amend the entire ordinance could be a lengthy one. The adoption of a house boat ordinance is a priority and will be addressed first. Andrew Casson will contact the chair of the City Council public safety subcommittee about the draft ordinance the Commission members had previously submitted. Chris Kealy will incorporate the suggested changes to the remainder of the ordinance into a Word document. The ordinance must be updated with regards to changes that have been made to orders.

4. Action Committees

A) Dredging

Adam Armstrong will attend a meeting of the Merrimack River Beach Alliance on March 6.

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B) Public Relations/Community Outreach/Marketing

George Sass has been working to plan an event with the staff of *Soundings* magazine. A small boat show with vendors and seminars could be scheduled for the summer of 2021.

C) Coast Guard City

No report

D) Waterfront Trust

The Trustees are in the process of revising a lease Geordie Vining drafted through which the Harbor Commission would pay the Waterfront Trust \$5,000 annually to tie the docks to the bulkhead.

5. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported:

- He attended a meeting in Salisbury on a geographic response plan.
- The booms will be deployed for a training exercise on May 27.
- He has finished preparing the budget and has a meeting scheduled with the Mayor on March 9 to review it.
- He received a \$25,000 port security grant that will be used to upgrade and maintain the cameras.
- He is applying for a grant to repair the docks at Cashman Park.
- He is considering the installation of racks at Cashman Park for the storage of kayaks.

6. Adjournment

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Chris Kealey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Harbor Commission will take place on Wednesday, April 1.