

Newburyport Harbor Commission
City Hall Conference Room
March 8, 2012
Minutes

1. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission was called to order by Acting Chairman Neil Bleicken at 7:05 p.m. In attendance were Neil Bleicken, Andrew Casson, Paul Dahn, Steve Hines, Paul Rooney, Justin Dutcher, Jamie Knapp and Bob Dow. Brad Duffin was absent. Also in attendance was Harbormaster Paul Hogg.

2. Minutes

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2012, meeting as amended. Andrew Casson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Coast Guard City Celebration

Paul Rooney said the date of August 3 has been confirmed for the ball, which will be held in the hall above the Mission Oak Grill. Steve Hines and Lois Honegger met with the owner of the Mission Oak, who will help keep the cost of the event low. The use of the hall will be donated and the cost of the food will be 60% of the usual rate. Menu choices will include chicken, fish and pasta. Information about the ball will be released 35-40 days prior to the event. A shuttle might be provided, as parking is difficult during Yankee Homecoming. The number of participants will be limited to 250. Tickets for Federal and State level politicians will be complimentary along with those for high and low level Coast Guard personnel, provided this is not against regulations. Any excess proceeds from ticket sales might be added to the scholarship fund. The scholarships, one for a Coast Guard member and one for a spouse or child, will be presented at the ball. Applicants must be actively attending a school. Other forms of support must be actively provided and a log must be kept. An application has been submitted for the Coast Guard Honor Guard and Drill Team to be present for all three days of the celebration.

4. Finance Committee Report

Andrew Casson said the fiscal year-to-date expenses exceed the fiscal year-to-date income, as would be expected at this time of year. Earnings from waterways and mooring permits will begin being received shortly.

5. Regulations, Safety and Moorings Committee Report

Commission members discussed the use of the docks at the Fish Pier by commercial vessels. Space must be equitably assigned, which might be accomplished by a lottery. Commission members would like the rates for the use of the docks to be increased. The current cost is \$900 for the season, which includes parking, utilities and the use of the hoist. The average length of the boats that used the docks last season was 40 feet. According to the City Ordinance, the Harbor Commission sets the fees, but any increase must be approved by the City Council. Jamie Knapp will work with Paul Hogg to

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determine if a new rate structure could be put into place before the docks are installed on April 14. Paul Hogg said he would write a letter stating that as new docks have been installed, an increase in the fees should be expected. Commission members would like the payments to be received before the start of the season and they would like the pile of trash by the hoist to be removed by April 1.

A meeting with the marina owners and operators was tentatively set for Wednesday, April 18.

6. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- excise tax bills have been sent out and those for the waterways and mooring permits will be sent out in about three weeks.
- funding is in place for the repair of half of the jetty. The rocks are being obtained from Seabrook. The plans call for the rocks to be trucked to the island and stockpiled in the parking lot but it has not yet been determined if the streets on Plum Island would support the load.
- the docks will be installed with the crane on April 14.
- he, Paul Dahn and Neil Bleicken met with James Waldron about building the website. The best method for communicating with clientele about moorings must be determined.

7. Other Business

• Business Cards

Andrew Casson said he met with James Shanley, who owns a business that provides business cards for the City. He will forward a sample card to members when it has been received. The expense of the cards will be paid from the Harbormaster's budget. Member will pay individually for the cost of Harbor Commission jackets or shirts.

• Long Range Planning

Possible uses for the large cash balance in the Harbormaster's account were discussed. Some of the funds should be used for improving the Harbormaster's facility and for providing facilities for transient boaters. James Shanley will be invited to attend a meeting after preliminary plans for expanding the Harbormaster's facility on the central waterfront have been developed. Andrew Casson, Bob Dow and Paul Hogg will speak with Mr. Shanley about the involvement of the Harbor Commission in the NRA's plans to develop the central waterfront.

For the next meeting Paul Hogg will look into ways the facilities at Cashman Park might be expanded. He would like a fillet station to be installed. Facilities might be installed that serve both boaters and non-boaters, such as users of the Rail Trail and the soccer fields.

8. Adjournment

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