

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Harbormaster's Facility
April 13, 2017
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Andrew Casson called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were Bob Dow, Andrew Casson, Justin Dutcher, Chris Kealey, Dan May, Jay Lesynski and Adam Armstrong. Jamie Knapp was absent.

2. Minutes

Bob Dow moved to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2017 meeting as submitted. Justin Dutcher seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Subcommittees

The discussion on subcommittee assignments was tabled to a meeting at which all members and Paul Hogg could be in attendance.

4. General Discussion

Vacancy

An advertisement will be placed in the *Daily News* for candidates to fill the vacancy on the Commission.

Publicity

Paul Hogg communicated to the members that he thinks the Stay Local Boat MA transient referral program would be a good fit for Newburyport. The program is operated by the Massachusetts Marine Trades Associates and was established to encourage seasonal boaters to travel to various marinas along the Massachusetts coast. A guest at a participating marina would be eligible for a dockage discount. The program might take a percentage of the slip fee. The members discussed placing an advertisement in boating magazines to make boaters aware of the new facility and to encourage them to visit Newburyport. Johnny Walker has indicated he would contact New England Boating on behalf of the Commission about doing a feature on the facility. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the facility is scheduled for May 11. Representatives from boating magazines could be invited, which could result in free advertisement. Dan May will compile a list of groups along the coast that could be asked to mention the facility in their newsletters or on their websites. A public relations subcommittee could be formed that would work with the Chamber of Commerce on publicity.

Andrew Casson attended a meeting on the Blue Flag program. A blue flag certification is given by the Foundation for Environmental Education to marinas that meet certain environmental management criteria. The requirements are too stringent to make participation feasible at this time. He would like to be made aware of the meeting dates of Storm Surge, a group formed by local citizens concerned with sea level rise, and the Merrimack River Beach Alliance.

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Chris Kealey has built a prototype for a website that would be linked to the City's website. He suggested two domain names be used: newburyportharbormaster.com and newburyportharbormaster.org. Andrew Casson is working to regain the use of Coast Guard City website domain name and content.

Dredging

The Commission members discussed the conditions at the mouth of the river. The Charos family has filed permits for dredging near their docks. Jay Lesynski spoke with Ed O'Donnell, who said the Army Corp. does not have any funding for the dredging at the mouth and maintenance dredging is not in its long-term budget. Andrew Casson will contact Representative Robert DeLeo and Senator Bruce Tarr.

5. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg submitted a written report that included the following:

- The docks and boats were installed the week of April 3.
- Details at the Whittier Bridge will resume on Monday, April 17 and will take place six days per week.
- Adult and child boater safety classes are being offered through the department of Youth Services on May 9, 16 and 23.
- Waterways and mooring permit registration forms were sent out the week of April 10. Boaters will be able to make payments online this season. Office hours for permits will begin on April 18.
- The process for hiring seasonal staff has begun, with many applications being received.
- The ribbon cutting ceremony for the new facility is scheduled for May 11 at 6:00 p.m.
- He will be hosting boat inspections with the Coast Guard Auxiliary on May 21.
- Sturgeon transmitters have been deployed and are marked throughout the river with orange markers. They are outside of the federal channel.
- The department was audited this year. The results were excellent and there were no discrepancies.
- The department's first boating under the influence trial was held last week. The defendant was found guilty and sentenced to two years in jail. The district attorney credited the way the case was documented for the first such decision she has won in three years.
- He hosted the North Shore Harbormaster Association at the new facility on April 10. A session was held on tourniquet training and policies and procedures were reviewed.

6. Adjournment

Bob Dow moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Justin Dutcher seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission will take place on Thursday, May 11, 2017.