

Newburyport Harbor Commission
City Hall Conference Room
May 8, 2014
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Acting Chair Bob Dow called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Bob Dow, Paul Rooney, Jamie Knapp, Paul Dahn and Dan May. Also in attendance was Harbormaster Paul Hogg.

2. Minutes

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2014 meeting as submitted. Dan May seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Paul Rooney moved to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2014 meeting as submitted. Jamie Knapp seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Harbormasters' and Transient Boaters' Facility Update

The Commission members had no new information on the project to report. No changes have been made to the design since the previous meeting.

4. Subcommittee Reports

Regulations, Safety and Moorings Committee

Jamie Knapp said he has looked into the transient boater fees in surrounding communities and the rates in Newburyport are significantly lower. The fees in Portsmouth have doubled in the past two years. The current minimum rate for a non-resident during the summer is \$5.00 per hour. He will attempt to learn the reason for the increase.

Coast Guard City Liaison and Community Outreach Committee

Paul Rooney said:

- he met with members of the Coast Guard to discuss making a joint presentation to the Newburyport Mothers' Club to express appreciation for the group's help during the renovations of the galley.
- the Coast Guard station plans to hold a boating safety class for the Newburyport Mothers' Club.
- he expects to have a recommendation for a candidate for the Cashman Award by the next meeting. Dan May suggested the award be made at the same time as the Rybacki Award at the Custom House.
- he has been helping with the arrangements for a tall ship being a part of the city's 250th anniversary celebration.

5. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- his office has been very busy
- the boats and docks are in

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- the facilities at Cashman Park are operating
- the pump-out station will be running within the week
- the water and power has been hooked up at the central waterfront
- he and some staff members attended a class and were certified for fighting a marina fire
- the work to repair the bulkhead should be completed by May 15
- 450 waterways permits have been sold to date
- he has received inquiries about holding weddings on the beach. There currently is no permit required or fee charged.

6. General Discussion

The Commission members continued a discussion begun at the previous meeting about the boating season. The docks are in between the approximate dates of April 15 and October 15. The timing is consistent from year to year and coincides with that of the Coast Guard. Most of the marinas require that boats be taken out by October 15. The role of the Harbormaster is to protect the boats and the docks.

7. Public Comment

Members of the audience asked question about the proposed Harbormasters' and Transient Boaters' Facility. The size of the structure would double to approximately 1,700 square feet. The schematic plans are on display in City Hall and the design has not changed since the last meeting. As much of the structure as possible would be devoted to use by transient boaters in order that federal boating infrastructure grant money might be obtained. The information in the *Daily News* about the possible new location of the Fisherman's monument was incorrect. More information on cost and financing should be available at the next meeting. The current cost estimate is \$984,000.

Bob Dow said the Commission has been working to take the concerns of the public into consideration in the design of the facility. He said the docks were replaced and water and 50-amp electric service were added, all without the use of tax dollars, and many boaters have inquired about the provision of other facilities. He said the proposed facility would benefit non-boaters as well, especially after the completion of the next phase of the Rail Trail. Bill Harris asked if an ice-making system could be added to assist the commercial fisherman. Paul Hogg said the service is being provided and the demand is being met. Bill Harris cautioned that the project might be slowed by a Section 106 review if a two-story building were to block the views of the river. He advised that the structure be placed on City land and be located 15 feet from the NRA property line. Sandy Small said the park could be enlivened by the restrooms being open throughout the year, or at least for special occasions. Leslie Eckholdt said the proposed design is attractive and sensitive, and she especially likes the center of the building being open to allow a view through to the river.

8. Adjournment

Paul Rooney moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Jamie Knapp seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.