

Newburyport Harbor Commission
City Council Chamber
June 9, 2011
Minutes

1. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission was called to order by chair Brad Duffin at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Brad Duffin, Neil Bleicken, Andrew Casson, Bob Dow, Paul Rooney, Paul Dahn and Jamie Knapp. Also in attendance was Harbormaster Paul Hogg.

2. Minutes

Neil Bleicken moved to approve the minutes of the May 12 meeting as amended. Paul Rooney seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

3. Harbormaster's Budget

Andrew Casson distributed the FY2011 balance sheet statement. Beginning with the September meeting, monthly benchmarks will be added to the reports so that figures can easily be compared to those from the previous year. The change in format will help expedite the preparation of next year's budget. The City Council Budget and Finance Subcommittee accepted the FY2012 draft budget without any amendments. The budget is the highest that has been submitted to date. A transfer of \$39,000 should be made from retained earnings to the additional equipment line item in the upcoming budget for gates and parking machines. Brad Duffin commended Andrew Casson and Paul Hogg for their work on the budget.

Members discussed the appropriateness of the new boat for the river. The boat was selected by the previous Harbormaster. Brad Duffin would like to look into the possibility of obtaining a Homeland Security grant for acquiring a second boat in the future. He said FY 2011 was the first year a profit was shown for Plum Island. Paul Hogg asked about the possibility of instituting a Plum Island season pass.

4. Coast Guard Cities Application

Neil Bleicken said the draft application has been completed. He will deliver a copy to the Mayor and meet with her to discuss her comments on June 13. Paul Rooney is making arrangements to have the application reviewed in Washington. Paul Dahn said many emails supporting the application have been received.

5. Discussion of Policy for Potential Contact with New England Development

Brad Duffin said Commission members should review the open meeting law. All Commission business must be conducted during a public meeting and no public policy can be decided outside of a public forum.

6. Replacement of Mr. Russell

Brad Duffin said he asked Dave Russell to submit a letter of resignation. After it has been received it will be forwarded to the Mayor along with a recommendation for his replacement. Commission members were asked to bring names of potential candidates to the next meeting.

7. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that

- a video will be used to explain safety issue such as rip tides and undertow.
- one of lifeguards received a \$1,000 scholarship from the North Shore Harbormasters' Association and is planning to attend Mass. Maritime.
- the docks are in the process of being constructed.
- 980 stickers have been sold, which is up from last year, and sales will continue for the next couple of months.

8. New City Docks

Bob Dow received a detailed invoice from Atlantic Dock and Marine for \$3,500. The expenditure of this amount was approved at the April meeting contingent upon the receipt of drawings with a valid stamp. A stamped letter from a Mass. certified engineer that refers to the Atlantic Dock and Marine preliminary design drawings has been received.

9. Miscellaneous Business

Cashman Park Flagpole

Neil Bleicken said the light on the flagpole at Cashman Park has been installed.

Group Moorings

Brad Duffin said the marinas were notified that Paul Hogg should be informed when moorings become available. The Harbormaster is the only party that may issue mooring permits. The Mooring Committee will review the status of the mooring field over the winter and will offer the marinas a certain number of service moorings.

Transient Boater's Facility

Brad Duffin said Steve Hines has sent a letter to the manager of the New Republic Corp., requesting that the ownership of the Towle barn be transferred to the Harbor Commission.

Harbor Safety

Neil Bleicken said the Harbor Commission should consider dedicating a website to issues relating to the harbor. He spoke about Project Wipeout, a service from a California hospital that targets surfers. Brad Duffin said the Chamber of Commercial or Anna Jaques Hospital might be contacted in the fall about entering into a joint venture on safety issues.

Plans for the Development of the Waterfront

Paul Dahn asked if the proposed location of a hotel on the waterfront is compatible with the fishing industry. Brad Duffin said the Fish Pier was built specifically for commercial fishing and could not be used as a part of a recreational facility. Paul Hogg was the Waterfront Trust is to forward copies of insurance for the fishing boats to facility the preparation of leases.

10. Adjournment

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Paul Rooney seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.