

Newburyport Harbor Commission

Online Meeting

June 9, 2021

Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. Minutes

Jamie Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2021, meeting as submitted. Andrew Casson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote (Andrew Casson, yes; Bob Dow, yes; Justin Dutcher, yes; Jamie Knapp, yes; Adam Armstrong, yes).

3. Committee Reports

a) Coast Guard City

The members reviewed and edited the draft package Ron Thurlow prepared for the Coast Guard City redesignation application. Andrew Casson will obtain the previous application from former member Dan May for comparison. Letters from Mayor Holaday, Governor Baker, Senator Markey and Senator Warren are in progress. The application is due on June 30. A special meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 23 to complete the package.

The redesignation package will note that the Harbor Commission has assembled a large collection of maritime books for Station Merrimack River. The George Cashman Award for 2020 is to be presented to the Station as a whole and a library was to be a part of the award. The Master Chief would be very happy to receive the books that have been assembled but he does not want to accept a bookcase with a plaque. He is concerned that the bookcase someday would be removed from the Station and the award would be lost. Instead, a plaque acknowledging the bestowing of the Cashman Award could be installed on the Rail Trail in front the Station.

b) Dredging

Paul Hogg attended the June 4 meeting of the Merrimack River Beach Alliance. The Army Corp has surveyed the area outside of the federal channel where dredging is needed. The City would be responsible for obtaining the necessary permits and funding for the additional dredging. The town of Salisbury should be involved in the process. Adam Armstrong will prepare an email to the Mayor about fast tracking the permitting process.

c) Public Relations/Community Outreach/Marketing

The committee is working on the revisions to the website.

d) Finance

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Paul Hogg said the budget has been submitted and was well received. The past year was busy, as was reflected by the revenue.

4. Waterfront Trust Lease

Mayor Holaday had informed Andrew Casson she was prepared to sign the lease with the Waterfront Trust, but her copy of the document was outdated. The Commission had revised the draft lease and the Waterfront Trust had agreed to most of the changes requested. The Commission asked for clarification about the party responsible for the repair of the bulkhead. The members are concerned that the Trust, being a non-government entity, could have difficulty obtaining grant money. The Commission wants it to be understood that it does not intend to lease the bulkhead and at the same time be responsible for its repair.

5. Other Business

Jamie Knapp has contacted the *Daily News* about advertising the vacancy on the Commission.

6. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported:

- He received an inquiry about a reservation for the 196-foot yacht *Bella Vitae*. He said the reservation system has been good for the city.
- He has not had a response from Wilson Welding about the repair of the fish hoist. He received a quote of \$6,500 from Viking Welding. Three quotes are required.
- He has received complaints about speeding near Carr Island. There are currently only three no wake buoys. The buoys cost about \$1,600 each.
- The Port Security grant for the new patrol boat has been submitted.
- He has obtained signage pertaining to kayaking. One has been installed at the end of the dock and one will be used at the fuel dock. There have been two small incidents so far this year.
- He has rewritten the policies and procedures.
- He has received calls about trash on the beach. It will be cleaned once or twice a week.
- An assistant harbormaster will patrol the beach at low tide on weekends on the Mule due to the lack of lifeguards.

7. Adjournment

Bob Dow moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. Justin Dutcher seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote (Andrew Casson, yes; Bob Dow, yes; Justin Dutcher, yes; Jamie Knapp, yes; Adam Armstrong, yes). A special meeting of the Harbor Commission will be scheduled for June 23, 2021.