

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Harbormaster's Facility
September 5, 2018
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Andrew Casson called a meeting of the Newburyport Harbor Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Andrew Casson, Adam Armstrong, Bob Dow, Jamie Knapp, Chris Kealey, Justin Dutcher, Ron Thurlow and Dan May. Jay Lesynski was absent. Harbormaster Paul Hogg was also in attendance.

2. Minutes

The approval of the minutes of the July 11, 2018, meeting was tabled.

3. House Float Ordinance

Paul Hogg and members of the City Council Public Safety subcommittee recommend that floating homes be defined in the ordinance and banned from Newburyport waters. Jamie Knapp will circulate the draft language for the ordinance. There has been some talk that the owners of the floating homes formerly at the Yankee Landing Marina wish to return to Newburyport from Salisbury. The floating homes have now been registered as vessels. They would not qualify to be serviced by the pump-out boat.

4. Waterfront Trust Discussion

Andrew Casson is scheduled to meet with two members of the Waterfront Trust on September 7. The Commission members discussed the possibility of revenue sharing and concluded they are satisfied with the existing system. They would not be in favor of sharing a percentage of the Commission's revenue with the Waterfront Trust. They would be agreeable to the Harbormaster managing the entire waterfront and would be willing to do this without a charging a fee to the Waterfront Trust. Members of the Waterfront Trust could be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss the position of the Harbor Commission.

The Commission members also discussed the possibility of RFPs being issued for the tour boats. Research could be done on the way this is handled in other communities. One issue to be resolved would be the disbursement of the tour boat income. The Commission members discussed other concerns, such as whether it might be difficult to obtain grants for repairs to the embayment if it were being managed by a non-government entity or which entity would be responsible for purchasing new docks if the Charos boat were to leave.

5. Subcommittee Reports

Regulations, Safety and Moorings

No report

Finance

No report

Ordinance

Chris Kealey is working with Richard Jones and City Council members to clarify the ordinance with regards to dinghies. The fee schedule would be eliminated so that changes could be made without requiring an amendment to the ordinance. The changes will be made in coordination with the addition of language to the ordinance regarding house floats.

6. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported:

- he has learned a virus is responsible for the death of the many seals that have been found along the coast.
- The Riverfest was very successful, with as many as 15,000 visitors. A grill fire was reported on one boat, which could not be reached via the boardwalk due to congestion. The Whaler was kept in the embayment and the safe boat was on call during the event. Lan-tel, the company responsible for the security cameras, set up a mobile command unit in one corner of the embayment at no cost. The unit, which is equipped with cameras and a drone, would usually cost \$5,000 per day.
- He helped to organize the shark and tuna tournament, which raised \$6,000 for Dana Farber. This year there were more boats and fewer fish than last year. The boat fire that occurred during the event was handled well.
- A 35' whale traveled up the river as far as the ice breaker.
- Labor Day was the last weekend of work for the lifeguards.
- Power is being transferred from the old shed to the new one on Plum Island.
- Signage has been added at Cashman Park stating boats have the right-of-way over fishermen.
- A new pump-out boat has been obtained.
- The presentation of the Cashman Award went well. The plaque has been moved from City Hall to the Harbormaster's facility.
- He was recently interviewed on the local TV channel.
- In the town of Manchester, the harbormaster has added a fee to the waterways permit that is to be used only for dredging. If Newburyport were to adopt such a fee, it could be used to provide the matching funds often required for grants.

8. General Business

Ron Thurlow will represent the Harbor Commission on the committee that has been formed to oversee the RFP process for the transfer of the land behind the Custom House.

9. Public Comment

None

10. Adjournment

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.