

Newburyport Harbor Commission
Harbormaster's Facility
September 6, 2023
Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. Minutes

Bob Dow moved to approve the minutes of the July 12 meeting. George Sass seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

3. Committee Reports

a) Coast Guard City

Ron Thurlow will draft a letter to the Mayor and the Custom House regarding the responsibilities involved with the Coast Guard City designation. The Mayor was apparently not aware of the role the Commission played in the establishment of Newburyport as a Coast Guard City and its work to renew the designation. The duties have been passed on to the Custom House. The designation requires the ongoing support of the Coast Guard, the documentation of the support provided and the preparation of the renewal package. It is not known if the Custom House is aware of the level of responsibility required and is willing to take on these tasks.

b) Moorings, Docks and Infrastructure

The draft 10A permit will be circulated for review and approval at the next meeting. The associated fees and fines must be determined. The purpose of the permit is not to generate revenue but rather to allow for an accurate understanding of the docks on the river. The permit would be due at the same time as the waterways permit. A late fee could be charged for boaters who do not obtain the permit by the end of June and those who do not pay the fee could be prevented from using their docks. A new watersheet application must be submitted for an adjustment to a docks that is greater than 10%.

c) Public Safety and Regulations

Paul Hogg said that Senator Tarr spoke about the need to relocate the federal channel at the last Merrimack River Beach Alliance meeting. The Coast Guard has said that the markers are in best water, but some of the buoys are not in agreement with the charts. The members of the subcommittee will communicate to Tim Cook their concerns about the locations of buoys #2, #11 and #26.

4. Review of Watersheet and 10A Applications

A 10A permit submitted by Paul Dahn was received and filed. The form has not yet been approved. Jeff Bailey has applied for a Chapter 91 license for 6 Jefferson Court. The public

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comment period closed on July 13. The Commission must obtain information on the number of boats that would use the dock and their lengths. Jamie Knapp recused himself from the discussion of the watersheet application for 2 Spofford Street. The application is incomplete, as it does not provide information on the way in which the dock or gangway would be attached and the abutter notifications have not been received. The applicant will be asked to attend the next meeting. The Commission is concerned about safety in this part of the river.

5. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- A grant was received for a new pump-out station. It will be moved closer to the water and will be taken out during the winter.
- Solar lights have been installed on the pier at Cashman Park, which allows the area to be lit all night.
- The work to repair the bulkhead is scheduled to begin on September 11 in the embayment. The removal of the docks was a part of the bid specs.
- Revenues for the season are down 11%.
- Marine traffic was closed for a period of time due to a malfunction of the Gillis Bridge.

6. Adjournment

Bob Dow moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Chris Charos seconded the motion. The motion was approved.