

Newburyport Harbor Commission

Online Meeting
September 7, 2022
Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. Minutes

The approval of the minutes of the July 13, 2022, meeting was tabled.

3. Committee Assignments

The committee assignments are in the process of being finalized:

Finance – Justin, Adam

Docks, Moorings and Infrastructure – Jay, Bob, Chris

Public Safety and Regulations – Ron, Bob, Jamie, George

Marketing and Coast Guard City– Ron, Justin, George

The members of each committee should work to manage their action items. Ron Thurlow said he has been looking into design criteria for docks and moorings and will pass the information along to the committee. He also said the city should be aware that the Coast Guard City designation involves providing day-to-day support for the Coast Guard. He suggested raising money for Market Basket gift cards. The new chief will first be contacted to determine the needs of the station.

4. Coast Guard City

The plaque for the Cashman Award has been ordered. A gathering with Coasties for the presentation of the award will be scheduled for October or November. It was suggested that the presentation could take place at the Starboard Gallery due to its proximity to the plaque location on the Rail Trail.

5. Dredging

H&L Contracting was been awarded the contract for the dredging of the mouth of the river. The work is to begin in October. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for September 8. At the end of the meeting, Paul Hogg will discuss the side dredge with GZA and H&L.

6. Market Landing Park

The work to repair the bulkhead has been delayed until next year.

7. Fishing Tournament

The fishing tournament will start on September 9. The tournament will be smaller this year, as the shark hunting portion of the charity event has been dropped. Mayor Reardon announced he would prohibit the use of any City resources, including the dock and hoist, for

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the event if the shark portion were kept in place, despite a letter from NOAA describing the benefit of such a tournament. A shark tournament will be held at the same time as the tuna tournament, but the weighing will not take place in Newburyport.

8. Plum Island Parking Lot

A new system is being considered for the Plum Island parking lot. Kiosks would be installed in May. With the pay-by-plate system, no cash would be involved. The department would receive half of the fines collected from citations and all of the parking revenue. The tracking of license plate numbers would be used to send out tickets. Under the current system, enforcement of the parking regulations is not always possible.

Jamie Knapp moved to authorize Paul Hogg to make the necessary arrangements for the new parking system with the condition that the Commission shall review the seasonal operating conditions. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

9. General Discussion

Andrew Casson said he was asked to mark all of the rocks in the river. The citizen was informed that the operator of a vessel is required to have paper or electronic charts on board and must understand how to read them. He was advised to take a course in navigation.

10. Harbormaster's Report

Paul Hogg reported that:

- The gundalow *Piscataqua* will arrive at the central waterfront on September 8.
- The new boat should be received in November.

11. Adjournment

Jamie Knapp moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Bob Dow seconded the motion. The motion was approved.