

## MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

JANUARY 11, 2006

A meeting of the Waterways Management Committee was duly called and held on Wednesday, January 11, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Norman Peloquin. The following were present: Mr. Peloquin, Robert Metcalf, Gerry Hickey, Roger Race, Ira Perry and Chris Hemingway. Absent was Mr. Warren Hathaway. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Peloquin reviewed the agenda for the evening. Mr. Race moved to accept the agenda. Mr. Hickey seconded. So Moved.

The minutes of the meeting of December 13, 2005 were reviewed. Mr. Hickey moved to accept the minutes with a change. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved.

### Harbormaster Report.

Mr. Melo reported that a 50' vessel was stolen out of New Bedford harbor. State Police notified him and asked to report any sighting.

Mr. Melo stated he received a course offering by Mass Maritime for Hazardous Waste (HAZWOPPER) Certification. It is to be held from February 6 thru March 10, 3 days a week, for a cost of \$570.00. He will speak to Mr. Michael Gagne to see if anyone else will be going to it. He said that he is primarily responsible to respond to any spills in the harbor. Mr. Metcalf suggested checking with Mr. Gagne to see if the Town will pay for the course. Mr. Melo said that it is valuable information and certification to have. Mr. Peloquin stated that Mr. Melo will be the first person at the site of a spill in the water and should know this information. Mr. Metcalf moved that Mr. Melo attend the seminar. Mr. Hickey seconded. So Moved. Mr. Melo said that this seminar would be valuable to him. Mr. Hickey also feels that Mr. Melo could, in turn, train the Assistant Harbormasters.

Mr. Hickey asked if this will fall into the memorandum of agreement between the Harbormaster and the Fire District and Police Department. Mr. Hickey feels that a memorandum of agreement is important. Mr. Melo would like to offer a memorandum to the Fire Department. Mr. Metcalf suggested checking with Mr. Gagne. Mr. Hickey said that there has to be a procedure to follow. Mr. Hemingway asked if the Buzzards Bay organization should be involved. Mr. Melo said that they do not get involved within the Town structure. Mr. Hickey moved that it should be clarified as to who has this responsibility and secondly, to have the Harbormaster develop a memorandum of agreement with the Fire Chief on the specific responsibilities of each party. Mr. Metcalf feels that the WMC has the responsibility of the waterfront and feels that a motion should be made by the WMC to appoint the Harbormaster as the Hazardous Waste coordinator on the waterfront. Mr. Hickey said that this would be included in his motion. Mr. Metcalf said that Mr. Michael O'Reilly should be notified also, but he is not responsible to the Commission. Mr. Melo said that in an emergency situation, he would need to know who else to call upon for assistance. Mr. Race seconded the motion. So Moved. Mr. Melo said that he would try to put an agreement together over the Spring with the Fire districts.

Mr. Peloquin also said that they should look into fire fighting certification for the water for Assistants. He said that no one in the fire department has it. He said that Mass Maritime has a course on this.

### Old Business.

Patrol Boat. Mr. Melo stated that he has ordered the engines, twin 200 HP E-Tec small blocks, this should give better speed and be safer on the water. He feels this are the best engine on the market currently. The engines will be shipped to Davis and Tripp, who will install them; the majority of other boat work will be done in-house. He said that the color of the hull should be the same, International Orange and the inside will be black, to help with the glare from the sun.

Signage at Public Landings. Mr. Melo said that he hasn't given N.B. Voke any work orders yet, he had been speaking with Mr. Gagne who suggested getting quotes from sign companies that the Town has used in the past. Mr. Melo said that they are looking into sheet metal signs at the landing and bridge. He would like them installed by the boating season. Mr. Hickey said that it is important that the public see progress on the water. Mr. Peloquin feels that it should be given to Voke to do this semester. Mr. Metcalf asked about the speed buoys. Mr. Melo said that they are brought further into the harbor during the winter. This spring they will be hauled, overhauled and put back into the water.

Dingy Racks. Mr. Chris Hemingway said that he has two quotes and he will present them to Mr. Gagne. Mr. Hickey said that the racks should be ready to go by the boating season. South of the ramp will be the first area to get 12 of the racks.

Subcommittee reports.

Renovations to 12 Rogers St. Mr. Hickey said he met with Mr. Gagne and the renovations will be done in two parts: 1) House and 2) Land. They discussed having an architect do a site plan. They need to know the use intended for the house, what offices to have, rooms for meetings, etc. The land has to be cleared, the fence repaired, land being developed and clarifying what can be done with the land. Also, the house should be hooked up to the sewer system. A lift pump will be used to get to the sewerage to the line at St. John Street. Mr. Melo said that the sewer hook-up should be done at the same time as the storm drain system is installed. Mr. Melo said that the DPW would soon clear the town land near the neighbors' property. Mr. Melo said that there are EPA test wells that need to have access to them. Mr. Hickey said that they would like to get the area going, even on a temporary basis. Mr. Peloquin asked about a pre-fab ramp in the water. Mr. Melo said that there was historically a sand ramp there. Mr. Melo will check with the DPW regarding closing off the end of Rogers St.

Public Education. Mr. Melo said that he sent an e-mail out to find out what is available. Westport and Fairhaven have courses they run. Mr. Hickey said that the Dartmouth schools would have it as an after-school program at the Middle School. Mr. Melo said that there is certification for 12-16 age group, they need this to run a motor boat, but not Jet-skis. Mr. Melo said there is also a program, using tools such as coloring books, for grade schools. Mr. Hickey said it is hard to add courses during the school day, but after school programs are the best way to go.

Revenue and Fees. Mr. Metcalf said to hold off any fee changes until the racks, etc. are done. He said that New Bedford has available moorings. Mr. Race suggested finding out what surrounding areas are charging. Mr. Peloquin said they should check to see why the Town is only giving the WMC 50% of the fees. Mr. Metcalf said that the Town could give a larger percentage to the WMC.

Sailboat on Water Street. Mr. Melo reported that the Coast Guard looked into the possibility of pollution from the chronically sunken boat. TowBoatUS was hired privately by the owner to raise the boat. It was towed to Davis & Tripp to remove rigging, then it was taken out of the water and disposed off by demolition in New Bedford..

"Two Year Use it or Lose It" Procedure. Mr. Melo handed out a letter for people that may lose their mooring under Regulation #9. He suggested sending out a letter to everyone on the danger list warning them that they may be losing their mooring. Mr. Race feels that the letter explains the process well. Mr. Hickey suggested changing the first line to read "Please be advised that you are in jeopardy of losing your mooring site'. He said that if they do not prove that they will be using the mooring this year, they will lose it. Mr. Peloquin said that if they lose it, they can always appeal that ruling to the Commission. Mr. Hemingway suggested going slow on application of the rule for the first year. Mr. Peloquin feels that the letter covers everything. Mr. Melo said that the list he has is of moorings without a vessel of record attached to it. He said that some moorings may have a vessel of record, registered for waterways use, but the owners have not actually put it in the water. Because of that, Mr. Melo said that there may actually be more vacant moorings than what is on the current list. Mr. Race moved to send the letter out as a warning to the people on the list. Mr. Hemingway seconded. So

Moved. All were in favor. Mr. Hickey said that is has to be very clear to the people they will be losing the mooring. This will get a lot of people off the waiting list. Mr. Melo said that he will send the letters first class to the people on the list, if they do not respond by March 31, they will receive a certified letter notifying them of their permit revocation.

Two Mooring-One Boat: what to do with this group. Mr. Peloquin said to send a letter to these people and find out what mooring they want. Mr. Peloquin said to stress that each mooring needs a vessel of record, one vessel of record cannot have two moorings. Mr. Peloquin will check with Town Counsel to see if they need a public hearing to clarify the rules and regulations. It was clarified that the regulations do already specify one vessel of record should only have one mooring. Mr. Hickey said that the people would have to explain to the Harbormaster why the vessel of record is not on the right mooring. Mr. Melo said that several people have one boat, two moorings and they use both moorings, they alternate the boat with each mooring each year, not leaving one empty for two years in a row. This is what had been known as a "storm mooring." Mr. Melo said that checks for proper use of a mooring in two ways: daily patrols and through the database to see if a vessel is registered for the year with him. Mr. Race moved that each vessel of record can have one mooring only. Mr. Hemingway seconded. So Moved.

Mr. Peloquin said that if a vessel of record is not on a previously unused mooring by the end of this boating season, they will lose the mooring permit. They have to prove that the boat was on the mooring most of the season. Mr. Melo suggested that one town requires that each person notify the Harbormaster in writing when their boat is on their mooring, and when it is hauled.

#### New Business.

Long Term/Short Term Goals. Mr. Peloquin asked for a motion to table the Long Term/Short term goals for 2006 season until the next meeting. Mr. Hickey moved to table them. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved.

Additional Duties for Harbormaster. Mr. Melo said that Mr. Gagne has spoken with him regarding the Shellfish Dept. and Bridge tenders not having direct supervision, and putting them both under the Waterways Division. Mr. Metcalf said that the Bridgetenders are alot of work, making sure there is one on duty, scheduling, etc. Mr. Melo said that it seemed to make sense because boaters already call him first when there is a problem opening the bridge. He stated they would like the Waterways and Shellfish departments to be able to continue to help each other. Mr. Peloquin suggested thinking about it and discussing it at the next meeting.

#### Public Comment.

Mr. Don White stated that public relations is critical; he suggested a column in the paper where people could write in their suggestions and keeping the public informed what is happening. He said taking moorings from owners will have public relation problems.

Mr. John Hayes said that some people believe that if they have a mooring south of the bridge, they can also own a "storm mooring" north of the bridge. He said that if they are going to take moorings, they should start early in the season.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February16, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at Rogers Street.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira