

## MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

FEBRUARY 16, 2006

A meeting of the Waterways Management Committee was duly called and held on Thursday, February 16, 2006, 7:00 p.m. at 12 Rogers Street. 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 January 12, 2006 were reviewed. Mr. Hickey moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved.

### Harbormaster Report.

Hazardous Waste Certification. Mr. Melo reported that he attended the Hazardous Waste course. He stated that it was well worth the time and he is now a certified responder in cases of hazardous waste spills. Mr. Peloquin asked what additional items the department should have on hand. Mr. Melo replied that he received a manual that states what has to be done in cases of spills. There is safety equipment that should be purchased to have on hand. Staff should be trained in response and identification protocol. The Town needs a response procedure or protocol for such cases. Mr. Melo stated he was the only Town employee that attended this particular seminar. Mr. Peloquin stated that Mr. Melo should be called in cases of spills, the assistant harbormasters do not need this certification. Mr. Melo stated he needs an 8 hour refresher course annually to keep the certification current.

Dingy Racks. The dingy rack contract has been awarded. Chris Hemingway was responsible for getting the bids collected. The racks should be done before the summer. Mr. Melo said that the dingys could be moved into the racks as soon as they are installed. Mr. Melo said that the cost per space for the racks should be re-determined. The cost of labor for building the racks are \$300.00 each, but the contractor will pay \$100. less per rack for materials, yielding a net increase of only \$200. per rack and this is close to the cost to do the racks in-house. Mr. Peloquin said it was previously determined to charge \$35.00 per year for the dingy space. Mr. Melo said that keeping the dingy on town property, but not in the rack, was to be either \$10.00 or \$15.00 each. The pay back period for the racks is about 5 years. Mr. Hickey asked Mr. Melo to determine the costs and present it at the next meeting. Mr. Race asked if an article should be put in the paper on the racks. Mr. Hickey suggested notifying the public that the racks will be paid back through the dingy rack fees. He said that the racks have to be secured to the ground, and the dinghies should be secured to the racks. Mr. Melo asked how the rack spaces should be given out. He said that he anticipates ordering decals for dinghies this year. Mr. Hickey suggested that the commercial fisherman should be given preference for the racks close to the water. Mr. Melo said that the racks should likely accommodate all the dingys on the beach now. Mr. Peloquin said this will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Budget. Mr. Melo reviewed the budget, he stated the income is slightly increasing from fees and fines. He said that people are complying with the rules and paying fines, etc. Mr. Melo said that they are now tracking tickets given out, putting them in the computer database. Additional costs associated with financing the Rogers Street property need to be budgeted. Mr. Metcalf feels the racks should be paid off, the house mortgage can be paid off over 20 years. He said that there will be expenses for the house, such as sewer connections and drainage, which have to be paid. Mr. Hickey suggested getting all the costs associated with house before making a decision.

Mailings. Mr. Melo said that the letters will be mailed out next week. He stated that the prestamped return envelopes will have the Town Collectors mailing address on it. There will be a notice sent out regarding the "Use it or Lose it" rule.

Mr. Melo asked about the policy for increasing the vessel size assigned to a mooring. He said that there is a request form to be filled out to change the vessel of record. There is considerable difficulty in making the determination of whether a new vessel will fit when only winter sticks and ice are in the harbor. He said that some Towns do not respond to these questions year round, there are certain times when it is easier to go out and determine if there is enough space for the larger vessel. Mr. Hickey feels that it is a reasonable policy. Mr. Melo should tell people that from September to June he is not allowed to determine if a significantly larger boat can fit on a mooring. Mr. Melo also stated that the type of vessel makes a difference at the mooring. Mr. Metcalf moved that the time period of June 15 to September 15 be established as when the Harbormaster is allowed to make a determination of whether a new vessel of record may be assigned to a mooring site. Mr. Perry seconded. So Moved.

Jet Ski. Mr. Melo said that last summer they had a one-year lease at no charge and shared it with the Police Dept. He stated that this was a benefit to both departments. He stated that Chief Pacheco called him and he is interested in purchasing the Jet Ski, if the Waterways Division will share the cost. He said that the Jet Ski they used last year can be purchased for \$6,900. The trailer is already owned by the Police Dept. Mr. Melo stated that the Jet Ski could be used more and the presence of it on Slocum River helped. He said that it is also a help on the budget, gas is cheaper. Mr. Melo said that the insurance on it was \$1,000 last year, because we didn't own it. It was stored inside at the Police Department and there was no problem sharing it with the Police Dept. Mr. Melo said that he will look into other programs for another free season, but Kawasaki is cutting back on the program. Mr. Hickey moved to authorize the Harbormaster to explore all ways of obtaining a Jet Ski and report back to the WMC on a proposal with the best way of obtaining one. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved.

Concordia Land. Mr. Melo stated that he met with Mr. Michael Gagne. He said that if condos were to be built on the site, it could limit public access to the waterways. The Town doesn't have any public waterways access south of the bridge. Mr. Peloquin said that there may be hazardous waste in the land. Mr. Metcalf said that there are already bids on the property, it is advertised world wide. The Town would like to research options for this land. Mr. Metcalf said that Concordia will still store boats on Gulf Road. Mr. Hemingway said that it will be a tough sell at Town Meeting. Mr. Melo said that his concern is the loss of ground on the public waterways access issue. Any boaters displaced by a change in use for the land and dockage would be looking for alternatives. The existence of any boatyard with the travel lift capabilities currently on site is also important part of emergency planning for the Harbormaster Office.

Off Shore Magazine. Mr. Melo said that there is an article in the magazine regarding Padanaram Harbor.

#### Old Business.

Patrol Boat. Mr. Melo stated the engines were ordered. The paint job could be done in-house. The colors will stay the same. The goal is to have the boat ready by the spring, it should be ready for the Memorial Day parade, and then launched into the water. Mr. Hickey said that the boat should look like a new boat when it is in the water.

Signage at the Public Landing. Mr. Melo said he will take photos of existing signs to determine what we should have. He would like the signs to be informative, but not distract from the scenery. Mr. Perry said that he took picture of some signs and will e-mail them to Mr. Melo.

Rogers Street Renovations. Mr. Melo will be contacting the architect on the house. He will speak with the DPW and Mr. Gagne about cleaning up the property. He is looking into the ramp and some people are using the sand for a ramp.

Public Education Programs. Mr. Melo is checking with the Coast Guard Auxilliary, and Environmental Police on these programs. Mr. Hickey said that the schools require advance notice of the education programs.

Press Release. Mr. Melo has published a press release regarding the "Use it or Lose it" policy and has received some feedback on it. Mr. Peloquin said that someone must have a vessel of record on a mooring if they wish keep it.

Memo of Understanding with Fire District. Mr. Melo will be researching this.

New Business.

Salters Point. Mr. Peloquin asked for a subcommittee to look into this. He would like to finalize the issue of summer mooring rentals before this year. Mr. Hemingway said that he will be on the committee. Mr. Melo said that they have been renting moorings at Salters, but he has deferred their request for the commercial moorings. Mr. Peloquin said that they have to be careful how they proceed on this. Mr. Hemingway and Mr. Peloquin will look into this.

Harbormaster Additional Duties. Mr. Melo is concerned with the cost to his department. Mr. Hemingway asked if they will give additional money to the Waterways Division for this responsibility. Mr. Melo said that he will be supervising Bridgetenders this season, but they will be hired and paid by the DPW. The Bridgetenders will in turn be available to help the Waterways Division. He said that the Shellfish Dept. is now under his supervision and Mr. Ken Pacheco is available to help him. Mr. Metcalf feels that the Bridgetenders could be a help around the bridge. Mr. Melo feels that he can make it work as a benefit to his department, and he can help keep them busy. They could help with the ticketing, etc.

Breakwater inquiry. Mr. Metcalf said that the State of Massachusetts owns the breakwater. Mr. Peloquin said that the DEP is looking to it. The Town doesn't want liability for it.

Long/Short Term Goals. Tabled until the next meeting.

Public Comment.

Mr. Don White, Bay View, said that the article in the paper was very good. It is very informative for the public. Mr. Race said the paper should be used more. Mr. Melo said that the Standard Times did not acknowledge it, only the Chronicle published it.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 14, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at 12 Rogers St.

It was moved by Mr. Perry and seconded by Mr. Race to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira