

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 24, 2006

A Meeting of the Waterways Management Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, October 24, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Norman Peloquin. The following people were present: Mr. Peloquin, Robert Metcalf, Warren Hathaway, Gerald Hickey, Roger Race, Chris Hemingway and Ira Perry. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

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

The minutes of the meeting of September 26, 2006 were reviewed. Mr. Perry said on page 1 under Amber Boat should read **Mr. Perry made a motion to give responsibility to the Harbormasters Office to name the fleet.** Mr. Hathaway moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved.

Harbormaster Report.

2006 Mooring Assignments & Attempts. Mr. Melo handed out a list of completed and attempted mooring assignments. There are now a total of 36 new assignments. He also noted he keeps a copy of all the refusals of moorings. Mr. Melo said that he usually goes through the list before offering second sites to refusing candidates, it is unlikely that someone would get two attempted assignments in one year. He keeps the list, some letters are sent out by certified mail, and kept on record. He noted by example that Susan Berry has an outstanding 2004 ticket and fine, he notified her by mail there was a mooring available but she has an outstanding ticket, she never responded. Mr. Peloquin questioned that someone should be on the waiting list with outstanding tickets. Mr. Melo said that if the Waiting List fee is paid she would be on the list. Mr. Melo said that he is doing the best he can with the process and feels it is mostly working out. He said that he tries to accommodate the wishes of the people and work with those who are willing to play by the rules. He said that he is getting requests for setting a price on mooring gear. He tells them he is not in this business and they have to sell their gear themselves. He gives them the three mooring companies to call. Mr. Perry asked what happens after two refusals. Mr. Melo said that they go to the bottom of the list as per the Commission policy set in 2004.

Budget Status. Mr. Melo handed out a summary of the budget for review by the WMC. He said that the budget seems to be in good shape. He said that he would like to work on the orange boat out of the water but there is no place to work on it. Mr. Hickey suggested that maybe there is room at the landfill where a portable shed could be set up and he could work on it. Mr. Melo would speak with Mr. Gagne regarding a spot. Mr. Peloquin suggested looking into a spot to rent. Mr. Hickey said that he could check out the wicker storage building on Dartmouth Street. Mr. Perry said he has a catalog of temporary buildings. It was suggested looking at DPW locations for a spot to erect the building. Mr. Hemingway suggested talking to Mr. Gagne regarding this issue. Mr. Melo said that if the Town erects a building for the Park or other department, a portion or stall could be included for waterways use. Mr. Hickey moved to find suitable winter quarters to house the vessels and be able to work on them. Mr. Hemingway seconded. So Moved. Mr. Race agreed this would be good. Mr. Melo reviewed the fees the department has collected. He stated that tickets are not currently a major source of income. Mr. Race asked who gets the parking ticket fine. Mr. Melo said that it should all come to the waterways department. It is a state ramp, but the Town gets the money for operating it. Mr. Melo said that the paying of \$5.00 parking fee is somewhat on the honor system, by putting money in an envelope and into the box. Mr. Melo said that he hopes to work on the regulations for violations this winter. Mr. Melo said that new regulations could be approved by Spring Town Meeting and go before the Attorney General Office. Mr. Hemingway asked how the department could get more clerical help. Mr. Hickey suggested hiring an Assistant Harbormaster with clerical skills. Mr. Melo said that he doesn't like to take people off the water and keep them only in the office in summer.

Regional Dive Team Training. Mr. Melo said that he went with the DPD dive team to Marion for dive team training. He said that there was a lot of interest in the orange boat.

Waterfront Overlay District. Mr. Melo reported that it was passed at Town Meeting despite opposition by the new owner.

Old Business.

Mooring Issue. Mr. Melo handed out a copy of a recent letter from Mr. Wolstenholme. He stated that Mr. Wolstenholme would not be getting a renewal for the mooring per the Commission discussion. He did not receive a timely appeal from Mr. Wolstenholme.

SITEC-UMass Regridding. Mr. Metcalf asked how it was coming. Mr. Melo said they are only working on the Rogers St. site, not regridding of the harbor. He said they are civil engineers who will be checking the contamination, site use and layout, etc. This is at no cost to the Town so anything received from it will be good.

Commercial Permit Status. Mr. Peloquin would like to table this until the next meeting. Mr. Melo would like to see a 1989 ACE letter referring to Concordia. He would like the WMC input on what to do with it. Mr. Hickey feels they should look into this. Mr. Peloquin is not sure if the wharf has property rights into the waterways; he feels that the original deed would have the necessary information. Mr. Metcalf said all original deeds have this information. Mr. Peloquin asked if this was in our jurisdiction. Mr. Peloquin said that if there is a change of use of the area, the Town will be notified and they could argue for its public rights. Mr. Hickey feels that they may be looking into doing something in the future, he feels we should look into it now. Mr. Peloquin suggested getting a copy of the deed from Mr. Gagne.

New Business.

Internship. Mr. Hickey said at the last meeting it was suggested getting a student to do a write-up for the newspaper. He asked if this should be a volunteer job. Mr. Hathaway said this department does alot and it would be excellent to get newsletters out. Mr. Melo said that they could pay something small out of the budget, but it all detracts from patrols. Mr. Hathaway said that most people do not know the accomplishments of the Waterways Division this would inform them what the fees they pay are used for. He suggested \$50. to \$75. will interest someone in doing this. Mr. Hemingway suggested letting the people know how an Enterprise System works through press articles.

Mr. Melo stated he went to a Dartmouth Town-wide Master Plan meeting. He said they wanted to know what the department does and where they want to go. The SRPEDD representatives gave an estimate of sixty thousand dollars to undertake a Harbor Management Master Plan. Mr. Hickey said that Edgartown spent thousands on a plan that was obsolete when it was implemented.

WMC Officer Nominations.

Mr. Peloquin said it is time for annual nominations of new officers.

Chairman. Mr. Metcalf nominated Mr. Roger Race for Chairman. Mr. Hickey seconded. So Moved. Mr. Race said that he would be happy to assume this position.

Vice-Chairman. Mr. Race nominated Chris Hemingway for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Perry seconded. So Moved.

Secretary. Mr. Peloquin nominated Mr. Metcalf to continue on as Secretary. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved. Mr. Metcalf said he would be happy to do it again.

Mr. Hemingway asked how this has been done in the past. Mr. Hickey said that there is a policy, but it was never followed. Mr. Hickey said that members are reappointed on a rotation basis, for no more than two terms.

Public Comment. None.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2006.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Diane L. Vieira