

## MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

MAY 08, 2007

A Meeting of the Waterways Management Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, May 08, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Roger Race. The following people were present: Mr. Race, Robert Metcalf, and Gerald Hickey. Excused were Mr. Norman Peloquin, Ira Perry, Chris Hemingway and Warren Hathaway. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Hickey stated that since a majority of the Commission was not present that the minutes be postponed until next week. Mr. Metcalf agreed that no votes could be taken.

### Harbormaster Report.

Unpaid Moorings. Mr. Melo said that the articles in the paper and on television brought attention to the unpaid mooring list. He has received countless telephone calls. He said that there are still 19 people on the list that haven't paid their fees. He said that these people would lose their moorings. Mr. Melo stated that most people on the previous list paid their fees including the late fees. Mr. Melo said that the Town Collector requested that next year they do not use May 1<sup>st</sup> as the deadline since it coincides with the real estate taxes. He said that he would look into using May 15<sup>th</sup> as the deadline in the future. Mr. Melo gave a quick rundown of the unpaid mooring list. He said that some of the people on the list have had previous issues with the WMC. He said that he will notify the people that the moorings have to be removed. Mr. Melo said that there will be no appeals from this list. They would be appealing that they did not meet the deadline, not that they were denied a permit. Mr. Melo said that the next letter they receive would state that the mooring site has been reassigned to the waiting list and they have to remove the gear or it will be removed at their expense and stored up to 30 days. He said that the old gear has to be removed before the new gear can be installed. Mr. Hickey asked how the moorings would be hauled. Mr. Melo said that when the site is reassigned the company putting in the new gear would remove the old gear and store it and notify the previous owner to get in touch with them or the hauling company will own the abandoned gear. Ms. Hill of Concordia said that sometimes the person tells them to keep the old gear. Mr. Melo said that the decals would be mailed by Friday, May 11, 2007 to the people that paid their fees and provided a stamped envelope. The people that do not receive them by the end of May will need to come to the office one of the specified Saturdays in June between noon and four.

Heritage Wharf. Mr. Melo states he was notified by Town Council that Heritage Wharf has filed litigation against the Town regarding the subdivision denial by the Planning Board.

Round Hill RADOME. Mr. Hickey asked if there was anything that the WMC could do as a group to help with the situation. Mr. Melo said that the contractor said that the owners would like to take it down to build a mansion. Mr. Melo said that he heard from Rep. John Quinn asking Barney Frank about making it a National Historical Landmark. Mr. Hickey feels that this is a part of Dartmouth history and would like to be involved in it. Mr. Melo said they are also looking into the possibility of relocation. Mr. Race said that it is a big endeavor to move it. Mr. Melo said that there was a façade placed on it and up close it is an attractive item. Mr. Hickey feels that someone should attend the meetings on this. Mr. Race asked if it would be good to contact the Historical Commission and offer any help needed.

Sea Scouts Chapter. Mr. Melo said that they are at the CBC building. He said that he doesn't have the time to be involved at the level they need. He said that Low Tide may be sponsoring them and they will meet there. He will be happy to help them occasionally if needed.

DPW Bridgetenders. Mr. Melo said that he received a call regarding Porta-Potties at the bridge. He said in the past he has put one at the bridge and one at the landing for a cost of approximately \$130.00 monthly. He said that the Board of Health called him last year to complain about the unhealthy condition it was left in. He said that it is cleaned weekly but people frequently abuse it. The Bridge tenders will use alternative facilities. He also said that once the beach opens they will have open facilities to use there. The Town also sold the dumpster that was at the landing along with the truck that emptied it. Mr. Melo said that he would be having a meeting with Mr. Iacaponi and Hickox. Mr. Hickey asked if a couple barrels could be placed near the building at the landing. Mr. Melo said that in the past there was a small dumpster locked at the landing and the staff would empty the barrels into the dumpster. He said that the dumpster frequently was used for hazardous debris and household furniture. That also became more of a hassle than the convenience it served. People will need to bring home whatever rubbish they generate.

Mr. Melo also reported that there a stench coming from the area of Smith Neck Road and bridge causeway intersection. Mr. Metcalf said that before the storm they opened up a ditch in the island to drain the area, but they storm blocked the drain again. The odor is from the little lagoon when it cannot

be drained. They are trying to contact the people to open it up again. Mr. Melo said filling in the area is an option to be looked into. Another option is burying a pipe underground that would drain out the area. Mr. Hickey said that he read about an area that took sand from the ocean bottom and pumped it into an area. Dredging the bay and putting the sand back on the beach is another option.

Cannon Photocopier. Mr. Melo is looking into purchasing a copier for the office to save on the lease fee that they unexpectedly paid. Mr. Melo said that a smaller copier would be fine for his office. He said the small copier would cost about \$1,200. with a one year contract, as opposed to the \$400 per month the Town Hall copier cost.

#### Old Business.

Concordia, Inc. Ms. Carol Hill said that Mr. Valiton of ACE would send them a letter as soon as possible. Ms. Hill said that ACE wants copies of the pictures of their moorings and a list of abutters, they have submitted it in the past, but will resubmit it. She said that they would like in writing what ACE requires of them, when they submit papers it isn't enough. Mr. Melo handed out a map from the Coast Guard showing where the new channel is proposed to be. Mr. Melo said that he has been asking the Coast Guard for the proper location of the channel and the proper width. Mr. Melo said that the Coast Guard notified him that boats were moored in the channel, but never answered regarding the location of the channel; he received the letter a few weeks ago. Mr. Melo said that the Coast Guard wants it resolved soon, but it is a bad time of the year to move moorings. He said that he is waiting until further information is received from the Coast Guard. Mr. John Hayes said that the Coast Guard moved the buoys last year, he said it was shifted from the previous location. Mr. Race asked if it should be a straight line to the bridge, now it seems like there is a sharp curve. Mr. Melo said that some of Concordia's rental people are getting on the Town waiting list. Ms. Hill said that she is receiving alot of callers regarding moorings. Mr. Race commented that Concordia sent a letter to their mooring owners. Ms. Hill said it has been done. Mr. Melo said that he is moving the waiting list around and people are getting moorings. Ms. Hill said that they are hauling vessels early in the morning before the workers start on the road. Mr. Race said that when Mr. Melo meets with Mr. Hickox he should mention that in case of storm emergencies, the working crew on Gulf Road has to be ready to clear the road.

#### New Business.

Harbor Regridding. Mr. Hickey said that he would like to start discussing regridding of the harbor. He feels that if moorings are going to be assigned, maybe it should wait until it is regridded. Mr. Metcalf feels that we cannot start regridding the harbor until the exact location of the Coast Guard channel is finalized. Mr. Melo agreed, he feels that the Coast Guard has to put in writing where the channel is. Mr. Race said discussion could be started on regridding the harbor beforehand. Mr. Hickey said that public hearings have to be held. Mr. Hickey said that it disrupted Salters Point when the regridding occurred, but in the end everyone was happy with it. Mr. Hayes said that there is a lot of ocean bottom conditions that have to be considered, some moorings can sink in the bottom. Mr. Hickey said that putting the same type of vessel in an area could buy more room in the harbor. Mr. Hickey would like to be sure regridding will give more space in the harbor. Mr. Melo said that regridding the harbor with similar vessels in areas; they could take into account the depth of the harbor and put the appropriate vessel there. Mr. Hickey would like to see this on the agenda. Mr. Race said that he would take the existing GIS map of the harbor and do a model to show how the moorings could increase. Mr. Hayes asked what way they will regrid, the direction they will be going in. Mr. Hickey said that they would have discussions with everyone involved and get the mooring owners input, then go from there. Mr. Hayes said no one wants to move their moorings, but they are willing to work with the WMC. Mr. Hickey asked Mr. Melo how he is doing with clerical help. Mr. Melo said that he still needs it. He said that the shellfish department is being cut. He said that the Town has not yet approached him on this subject.

Mr. Don White suggested keeping the publics attention on moorings and the WMC with articles in the paper updating the public. Mr. Melo said that Genoa Warner is interested in writing articles now that school is over.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 29, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane L. Vieira