

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 26, 2007

A Meeting of the Waterways Management Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, June 26, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Roger Race. The following people were present: Robert Metcalf, Warren Hathaway, Chris Hemingway and Gerald Hickey. Excused were Mr. Ira Perry and Norman Pelouin. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Race reviewed the agenda for the meeting. Mr. Hickey stated he would like to add an item under New Business. Mr. Hickey moved to accept the agenda. Mr. Metcalf seconded. So Moved.

The minutes of the meeting of May 29, 2007 were reviewed. The first paragraph should read Mr. Warren Hathaway not Hemingway. Mr. Hemingway moved to accept, Mr. Hickey seconded. So Moved.

Harbormaster Report.

Meeting with NBYC Board of Directors. Mr. Melo said that he met with the Board of Directors at their request. He said that it was an informative meeting. They were interested in the plans for the harbor. He said that they also spoke about the environmental police being on the water. He was asked why members are being stopped. He told them it was important to have the boat and equipment up to date. He informed them that the safety information is on the Harbormaster website. The directors were interested in the planned re-grid and are willing to help. Mr. Hathaway said that he is at NBYC often and they think that Mr. Melo is doing a good job, and are happy with the things that are happening in the harbor. He also stated that the majority of the membership is behind the WMC and what they are doing.

Championship Regatta. Mr. Melo said that there weren't any problems with this prominent race. Mr. Melo said that he is informed in advance of what will be happening and he does research to be sure the event is safe and won't interfere with navigation or safety. He said that they keep watch and help when needed.

Mass. State Police training session. Mr. Melo said that he and Assistant Tom Gill went to the session. He said that it was worth his time, it informs of any law changes, license changes, etc. Mr. Race said that it is important to attend training to keep abreast of any changes.

Budget. Mr. Melo reviewed the budget. He said that it will be close but he should be able to close the fiscal year with the existing funds. He stated that this year there were a few expenses he had not planned on, such as insurance, a bill for a surplus photocopier. Mr. Race said that when Mr. Ed Iacaponi returns to work he would like to meet with him regarding the issues of insurance and the overhead costs. Mr. Melo said that his budget was charged \$300.00 to have two employees cut the lawn at Rogers Street. Mr. Race said that he would speak with CBC to try and exchange lawn cutting for being able to park in the driveway by CBC personnel. Mr. Hickey said that he would try to get someone to cut the lawn. Mr. Hickey would inform Mr. Gagne not to send anyone to cut the lawn again. Mr. Hemingway seconded. So moved. Mr. Race will speak with Mr. Gagne. Mr. Hemingway said that he would like to move that the Waterways Enterprise try to separate themselves from the Town. He would like to do everything that they can in-house. Mr. Hemingway suggested having a sub-committee set up to research ways to make the enterprise system stronger. Mr. Hickey said that they should look into ways of saving, such as doing our own billing. He suggested Mr. Melo keep a list of all the charges that are out of our control. Mr. Hathaway moved to enhance the autonomous nature of the enterprise system as the purpose of the sub-committee. Mr. Hemingway seconded. So moved. This will be discussed in September after the boating season.

Nonquitt Re-grid. Mr. Melo said that the re-grid of this area has been completed. He said that the grid is based on the size of the boats; moorings are tight and not spread out. He said that if people try to sneak a mooring, it should be noticed. He said that Concordia has pulled out of the area, they are all private moorings.

Mooring Assignments. Mr. Melo said that it is going slow because this is the busy season. He said that he would be starting to put more time into this, but it is one area that is hurting from all the uncertainty in the Concordia mooring status, USCG Channel, and re-grid process.

Old Business.

Concordia, Inc. Ms. Carol Hill was present and said that they haven't heard the final word from ACE or Brian Valiton. She said that it's been approximately 8 weeks since they heard that grandfathering would not be permitted. She said that she has sent him the necessary information; progress is being made but very slowly. Mr. Race said to keep going and keep the WMC informed of any progress.

Concordia's Travel Lift. Ms. Hill said that they would be dismantling the lift starting July 9th. It will be moved to the Gulf Road site. She said that there would be a new lift at the Nolan property after 8/1. She said that they are trying to move the boats over the road after hours due to the construction on Gulf Road.

Coast Guard Redefining the Channel. Mr. Melo said that he and Ms. Hill met with the Coast Guard regarding the channel. He said that the new channel will be 50 yards wide. Mr. Melo feels this should be manageable. The Coast Guard will be moving their buoys; the new locations will be charted. Mr. Hickey said that he would like to see a press release when this is done informing everyone what is happening. Mr. Melo said that the buoys would lead the boaters to the bridge. He said this is required prior to the re-grid process continuing.

Departmental Truck. Mr. Melo said that he would like to wait until January, 2008 due to the money situation in Town. He said that the Police Department has a pick-up truck with a diesel engine that he can use for towing. He said that he can pull boats with this one, and use it to haul larger items.

New Business.

Apponagansett Park Area. Mr. Melo said that the Town is researching having a Park / Marina / Kayak and Canoe area to be set up there. Mr. Hickey said there has been plans going back to 1962 when discussions were made to have this park area. He said that he is having copies made of it. Mr. Melo said that Apponagansett Point is not being used to its capacity. He said that the Park Department and Town could profit from a marina, which would bring money into the General Fund. Mr. Race said that Mr. Gagne would like to meet with the WMC and Park Department at a joint meeting to discuss this using the U-Mass students to do a feasibility study. Mr. Hickey said that he would like the WMC to explore their legal responsibility in this area, the Waterways may have more authority to do this. Ms. Hill said that the average price for a slip is \$75.00 to \$85.00 a foot, although Cape Yachts is closer to \$200/ft. Mr. Hickey said that this would be guaranteed income for the Town or Waterways Enterprise fund; he feels there is great potential in this area. The demand for slips far exceeds the availability. He would like to see the authority for a marina stay with the waterways department, maybe share it with the Park Department. Mr. Hemingway would like to know what the Town expects from the WMC regarding the marina. Mr. Melo said that the marina would have to be at the end of the point, not near the landing that is under a land management agreement. Mr. Melo said there are a lot of boats on the north side that would fit into a slip freeing up space in the water. Mr. Hickey said that a sub-committee should be formed to research this.

Waterways Rates. Mr. Melo said that a resident at Town Meeting asked about the rates and declared that the harbor was a "sacred cow". Mr. Gagne explained to him that it was an enterprise system and the funds cannot be used as General Fund money. Mr. Hemingway suggested information to the boat owners to inform them how their waterways money is being spent.

Administrative Office Help. Mr. Melo said that people are upset if there is no one in the office when they go in. They are upset if he is in the office and not on the water. It's a no-win situation. Mr. Melo said that he can only hire assistant harbor masters, but one could be assigned just to babysit the office. Mr. Race suggested getting two part-time people year year-round.

Boats on Beach. Mr. Hickey said that due to boats being washed up on the beach during storms there should be a requirement that vessels have the proper chaffing gear. Mr. Race said that the rules state that proper mooring gear is a requirement. Ms. Hill said that the boats that washed ashore had the proper gear. Mr. Hickey wants to be sure that the people have chaffing gear for the safety of the harbor. He would like to see it stated clearly, and if the people don't follow there will be stiff penalties. Mr. Race will put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

Public Comment.

Mr. Donald White said that the WMC should go to the by-laws and see what the WMC is allowed to do. Also, he stated that before anything is done at Apponagansett Point work should be done at Rogers Street to show the public what is being done. Mr. Melo said that the back lot at Rogers Street has been cleared as much as they could without going into DEP territory. He said that the tractor is being used elsewhere in Town. Mr. Hickey said a lot of work is being done in this area, but it is in report form and the public isn't seeing it. Mr. Hemingway suggested letting the public know about it.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 24, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Hickey moved and Mr. Metcalf seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane L. Vieira