

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

JULY 24, 2007

A Meeting of the Waterways Management Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, July 24, 2007 at 7:02 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Roger Race. The following people were present: Robert Metcalf, Norman Peloquin, Chris Hemingway and Gerald Hickey. Excused were: Warren Hathaway and Ira Perry. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

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

The minutes of the meeting of June 26, 2007 were reviewed. On the first page, under Budget ninth line should read Mr. Hathaway, not Mr. Hemingway. Mr. Hickey moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Peloquin seconded. So Moved.

Harbormaster Report.

Waterways Budget charge \$4,800. Mr. Melo said that Ms. Claire Karoven said that Mr. Gagne told her to bill the waterways budget for this expense to a collection processor. He said it was for the DEP review of fuel tank site at the end of Rogers Street. He said that every year it remains an open reviewable site there is a \$2,000 administrative fee payable to DEP. He said that this bill is for 2 years plus collection fees. We also are faced with this year plus one more year until the site review is likely closed. Mr. Peloquin said that he spoke with Mr. Gagne and he would like the WMC to be informed in the future of the status of the site. Mr. Melo said that the DEP is responsible for review until closing of the site, but the Town is responsible to pay the state the annual fee. Mr. Race said that he would invite Mr. Michael O'Reilly to the next meeting to explain the charges. Mr. Hickey said that the invoice should be paid but he would like to go to Town Meeting to get the funds from retained earnings to cover the deduction from our operating budget. Mr. Hickey moved to pay the invoice and go to Town Meeting to get the funds. Mr. Peloquin seconded. So Moved. Mr. Hickey said he would like to stop seeing charges to the Waterways Enterprise Fund without prior information. Mr. Peloquin said we should pay the charges, but notify Mr. Gagne in writing that the WMC objects to this type of after-the-fact charges. Mr. Peloquin said he understood that the site had only to be capped. Mr. O'Reilly will be invited to a future meeting to explain where the Town stands regarding this site. Mr. Hickey said he has also spoke with Mr. John Quinn and will meet with him regarding the status of this site, he invited anyone else to attend this meeting. Mr. Race said he would like to be at the meeting. Mr. Hickey said he understood the clean-up was done on the property.

FY 2007 Budget. Mr. Melo said that it was close but he was able to put a few dollars back into the retained earnings from the operating budget.

Grass Cutting at Rogers Street. Mr. Race said that the Town has cut the grass for the last time; the Town will not be cutting the grass in the future. Mr. Race said that he spoke with CBC and they will cut the grass in exchange for parking at the site when needed. Mr. Hickey said he would also speak with Mr. Quinn regarding capping of the site and putting in drainage and sewer. He would like to have a plan on doing this. Mr. Metcalf would like to see the site cleared and blacktopped for parking, there are already some moorings there and it could be used more effectively. Mr. Metcalf said that cleaning the storm drains would be an expensive problem.

Vacation Time. Mr. Melo said that he has 3.8 weeks of unused accumulated vacation time that should be used or he will be losing them. He spoke with Mr. Gagne and was told he could have until the end of the calendar year to use the time. Mr. Melo said that he will be getting married soon and he has spoken with the Town attorney regarding proper legal procedures and filings since he will be marrying another Town employee. Mr. Hemingway suggested drafting a letter of support from the WMC for Mr. Melo.

Old Business.

Concordia, Inc. / New Channel Location. Mr. Race stated he received an e-mail from them and there is no news on the Army Corp. Mr. Melo said that Ms. Hill stated Concordia has done what was needed for the individual permits. Mr. Melo said that the Coast Guard had moved the buoys without his presence. He immediately called the USCG navigation chief and stated that it was not moved to the previously

agreed position. The buoy tender returned and re-set nun 12 with his assistance. He feels they were moved close to where they originally were. He said that Concordia will be buying the suggested green private navigation buoy, but he hasn't sent them any paperwork for it yet. Mr. Melo said that it would be installed as soon as it comes in. Mr. Race said that he would check the status of this with Concordia.

Landing Area. Mr. Melo said that the commercial Bass season is open and there has been a lot of activity at the landing. They are receiving most of the landing fees without any problems. He said that the road construction is making travel in this area difficult. He said they couldn't use West Smith Neck Road due to storage of the pipes for the sewer. He stated that the landing is at full capacity. They can park at the beach lot but without trailers, the trailers will be towed.

Needed Support Staff. Mr. Melo said that he needs help in the office with the phones, also with grant applications that he cannot get too. He said that there are grant opportunities that he cannot get the applications done due to time limitations. He said that Julian Race has filled out some grant applications, one is for a thermal camera. Mr. Melo also stated there is a need for night security; things are being taken from boats. Mr. Melo also said that the override might have changes in the shellfish department. Mr. Race said that the shellfish department and waterways enterprise fund have to be kept separate. Mr. Melo said that the grant came through for transplant of quahogs, he said in the past he has helped with this. Mr. Hickey said that Mr. Gagne is the direct supervisor for Mr. Melo and if he is told to help with the shellfish, he has too. He suggested talking to Mr. Gagne on what will happen to this department in the future. Mr. Melo said that the shellfish department couldn't support itself financially as it was established. Mr. Hickey said there are not many commercial fishermen. Mr. Melo said there is also a senior citizen commercial license but they pay half the commercial amount. Those fees do not equal the operating needs of that enforcement position.

New Business.

Mr. Walter Faria. Mr. Melo said that he received a letter from Mr. Faria regarding his unpaid mooring fee. He said that it was sent to the wrong address. Mr. Melo said that he never sent it to the present address since he wasn't notified of the change. Mr. Melo feels that the circumstances may warrant that his fee should be accepted. Mr. Race moved to give Mr. Faria his sticker. Mr. Metcalf seconded. So Moved.

Padanaram Bridge. Mr. Melo said that the bridge has broken down again, there are DPW workers opening the bridge by turning the hand wheels on the jacks. He said that the Coast Guard has received a complaint, and there was someone from CG taking pictures of the bridge. Mr. Melo said that one of the assistant harbor masters took him out on a boat and he took pictures, stating that the concrete and stone wasn't in good shape. Mr. Melo said that the selectmen received an official letter regarding the status of the bridge. Mr. Melo said that letter indicated we have a non-conforming bridge. Mr. Melo said that the waterways are the top priority with the USCG, automobile travel is secondary to an open waterway.

Hurricane Issues. Mr. Melo said that we do not have a good evacuation plan because of the road construction. He said that he would be looking toward the Dartmouth Street area for temporary storage of boats in case of an emergency evacuation.

Maryland Free Boat. Mr. Melo said that there was a free 40' boat, he said that he could use it but doesn't need it. Mr. Melo said that it cannot be resold, it has to be used. Mr. Race said that opportunities like this come along. Mr. Melo said there are some repair issues with one of the Town boats. Mr. Metcalf moved to pass on this boat but keep Dartmouth in mind for other opportunities. Mr. Hickey seconded. So Moved. Mr. Melo said that getting this 40' boat to Dartmouth would be an expensive venture.

Mr. Joseph DeSouza. Mr. Melo stated that Mr. DeSouza received a letter from New Bedford stating he has been using Jet Skis in New Bedford waters. He said that Mr. DeSouza uses the Jet Skis from his own home. Mr. Melo stated that it was a New Bedford ordinance and was not issued by the State. Mr. Melo feels there is no jurisdiction over this side of the Cove but he just wanted the WMC to be informed.

Buzzards Bay Regatta. Mr. Hemingway asked if Mr. Melo has to do any preparation for this. Mr. Melo said that the New Bedford Yacht Club is keeping him informed of their plans for this. Mr. Melo said that Concordia doesn't have the lift to put the boats in the water and Davis & Tripp doesn't have the apparatus needed to launch rigged boats. Mr. Melo said he is having extra staff on duty to be ready for emergencies. Mr. Melo said that Cape Yachts is looking into having a temporary lift on hand.

Public Comment.

Mr. Don White asked if there was grant writers that could help Mr. Melo with the grant applications. Mr. Melo said that the Town has someone on staff but he would like an independent grant writer who would take a percentage of the grant as payment. He said it would take time to train someone. Mr. Peloquin asked about using a group such as SCORE to help. Mr. Race said that he would look into it. Mr. Melo said that Stephanie Sailiki was good at getting increased monies from the Clean Vessel Act, and would hopefully continue with that.

Mr. Race said that Concordia has until September 18, 2007 to produce their paperwork from Army Corp of Engineers and would like to meet before then. The WMC will meet with Concordia on this date.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, September 10, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Hemingway would like to invite Mr. Michael O'Reilly and Ed Iacaponi to the meeting.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira