

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly called and held on Monday, September 10, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Roger Race. The following people were present: Norman Peloquin, Robert Metcalf, Warren Hathaway, Gerald Hickey, Chris Hemingway, and Ira Perry. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Race reviewed the agenda for the meeting. Mr. Hathaway moved to accept the agenda. Mr. Metcalf seconded. So Moved.

The minutes of the meeting of July 24, 2007 were reviewed. Mr. Peloquin moved to accept the minutes as amended by Mr. Hickey. Mr. Perry seconded. So Moved.

Harbormaster Report.

Harbormaster Marriage. Mr. Melo said that he was married on August 26, 2007 and took vacation the following week, returning for Labor Day weekend. He is awaiting the Select Board decision on his working arrangement; an opinion was sought from Town Counsel as allowed under State law. Mr. Melo wanted it made clear that he would be personally paying for that opinion, and not allowing Enterprise or Town funds to be expended for his personal decisions. He has sent a declaration to the Select Board.

CVA Grant. Mr. Melo said that we received a check for \$31,000 that went directly into the waterways enterprise fund. He said that this covers our annual service and a shore-side pump. He said this is an annual grant for pump-out services, but nearly doubled for this year. It a $\frac{3}{4}$ matching grant, we put in $\frac{1}{4}$ of the amount.

CBC Using Driveway. Mr. Melo said that they cut the lawn at Rogers Street in exchange for using the driveway. He said that someone called Mr. Michael Gagne to complain electricity is being wasted at the house. He said he changed the bulbs from efficient fluorescent to standard to use timers and sensors. The electric bill with fluorescent was \$10.00 to \$12.00 per month. He said Mr. Gagne asked him put in bulbs that work with a sensor which will probably raise the monthly electric bill. The caller also complained about boats being in the driveway. Mr. Hickey said that we are trying to be efficient and should not let people change the goals. Mr. Hemingway said that CBC should be informed that we do not have insurance if any damage occurs to the boats.

Surplus Federal Boat. Mr. Melo said that he is looking into a surplus boat in Georgia. Mr. Melo presented pictures of the boat. He said this would be the first department boat with a cabin. He said two people would go down to sign for it then store it until we can move it up here. He said the hardest part is getting it off the base. He said that this would be a good winter boat.

CPC Grant. Mr. Race said that all the applications are done to apply for the \$75,000.00 grant from the Community Preservation Committee. Mr. Race said that he received a call from Mr. Michael Gagne stating that they should appear at the meeting. Mr. Race said that he has a presentation ready that was forwarded to the WMC members. He said he is willing to show it later. The meeting will be next Tuesday if anyone can attend. Mr. Hickey said that he met with Mr. John Quinn telling him that we have applied for the grant since Mr. Quinn is the person that told him about the grant. He said Mr. Quinn might be able to help later. This grant should be enough to put the gravel down and get the area started. Mr. Hickey said that once there is a plan the neighbors should be involved.

Old Business.

Concordia ACE Update. Ms. Carol Hill was present. She handed out copies of the correspondence she has received. They are still waiting for answers from ACE. She said that the Coast Guard has finally defined the channel and she had Tom draw it up. She said she has spoken to Brian Valiton and she delivered the paperwork to the office. She said they have all the information they requested now but they will not commit to any time frame. Ms. Hill said that at the present time they are going for the individual permits, not the grandfathering of moorings. ACE would not put anything in writing so they are doing the individual permits. She handed out copies of the permit application. She said that ACE was very helpful. She said they would be setting up a comment period or hearing for anyone to give comments about the Concordia application after they have reviewed the submitted paperwork. Mr. Hickey asked what is needed for the permits to be granted. Ms. Hill said that they have submitted everything needed. Ms. Hill said they would be using the Town landing, Smith Neck

Road and the NBYC as access points to the water. Mr. Hemingway asked how many dingy spaces Concordia rents. Ms. Hill said 48 on the floats and another 40 in the water. Ms. Hathaway asked if she knew if ACE was following this procedure for anyone else. Ms. Hill said that she doesn't know of any, all she knows is everyone has a public comment period. Mr. Hickey asked if they are expecting any problems. Ms. Hill said no. Mr. Hickey would like to establish a time line between now and next year. Mr. Melo said that the problem this year was we approached it in the spring, now we are working on it in September to be ready for next season. Ms. Hill said that they applied for about 161 permits. Mr. Hathaway asked if we should let Mr. Valiton know we are waiting for the answer to plan for next boating season. Ms. Hill said that once ACE has the paperwork from Concordia they cannot put off making the decision. Mr. Peloquin said that we need to know the result as soon as possible to make a plan for next season. Mr. John Hayes said that Mr. Valiton should not be pressured. He said it took 16 months for his 6 mooring to be approved.

Mr. Melo said that people might also be moved if the channel is changed by the Coast Guard. He said once the channel is widened they may lose a full row of moorings. Mr. Peloquin is concerned with the swing circles. Mr. Perry agreed. Ms. Hill said that ACE might not approve all the moorings. Mr. Hickey moved to discuss alternative plans at the next meeting. He would like recommendations from the Harbormaster. These plans would be contingent on the decision of ACE. The next meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2008 to follow-up with Concordia.

New Business.

Hill Street Streetlight. Mr. Melo said that with the Town shutting off streetlights, this one should be looked into. It is a safety feature at night for anyone going to the dingy area; the stairs are steep making them dangerous in the dark. He said that there is a dark spot down the embankment. Mr. Melo said that it is \$120.00 for the year for a streetlight. Mr. Hickey said the lights left on is for security purposes, he suggested going to the Safety Officer and try to get the light on for security reasons. Mr. Hickey suggested going to Mr. Gagne and check into putting it back on.

Mr. Hickey asked about the Slocum River Kayak Boat race; is the Harbormaster informed of this. Mr. Melo said that he receives notice from the host stating that they want to host the race; they apply to the State for a license to hold an event in the public waterway. He adds any comments and then it is submitted to the State. He said he has people patrolling the event. Mr. Hickey feels it is a good public function and he would like to see the Harbormaster set up dialog with the organizers of the event and ask if we could be of any help. Mr. Melo said in the future he would like to establish a "River Keeper" to help watch over the Slocum River area.

Mr. Hickey stated that he is concerned with the Harbormaster workload. He would like to make sure the Department as a staff big enough to handle everything. He would like Mr. Melo to identify the positions that are needed and staff it as needed. He said he received complaints that people sometimes cannot get in touch with Mr. Melo because he is so busy.

Mr. Hickey next asked about hurricane preparedness. Mr. Melo said that they hope to get the most boats out, but with the construction in Town there is no easy route. Mr. Metcalf said that the sewer project is almost finished. He said that there is no more digging. Mr. Melo previously established a plan. Mr. Melo said that there is information available on the website ready to be put on the web when a storm is expected. He said that the High School parking lot could be used as a temporary storage solution.

Mr. Hickey said that the regrid of the harbor should also be put on the agenda for the future. Mr. Melo said that once the channel has been established, the regrid can be started. Mr. Metcalf said that if sand can be moved, you could get more moorings in the harbor.

Public Comment. None.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane L. Vieira