

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

SEPTEMBER 18, 2007

A meeting of the Waterways Management Committee and Community Preservation Commission was held on Tuesday, September 18, 2007 at Town Hall during the regular CPC Monthly Meeting. The following members of the WMC were present: Roger Race, Robert Metcalf, Gerald Hickey, Chris Hemingway and Ira Perry. The following member of CPC were present: Chairman Howard 'Buddy' Baker-Smith, Jackie McDonald, John Souza, John Costa, Mike Barkstein and Nancy Thornton.

Mr. Baker-Smith asked for an overview of the proposal from the WMC. Mr. Race gave an overview. He said we would like to take the site at 12 Rogers Street and the large parcel behind it that the Town previously owned and turn it into a useable area with access to the water. The area is now in disrepair. Mr. Hickey said nothing can be built on it – it has to be capped and turned into useable space. Mr. Metcalf said we need to take the load off of Appongansett Landing. Mr. Race feels if it's clean with a landing, people will use this area.

Ms. McDonald asked how much for the design of the area will be used from the grant. Mr. Race said he received a quote of approximately \$4,800.00 for a plan layout; the architect is willing to work with the WMC.

Mr. Race said the ultimate plan for the area is to put catch basins, install sewer and clean-up the complete area. Mr. Hickey said the house will be turned into a more useable space for the public. He said New Bedford will have easier access to this area, which in turn will help Appongansett Landing during the busy summer season. Mr. Race said we have to follow EPA rules on clearing out the area behind the house. He said there will be no digging in the area. Mr. Buddy-Smith asked about public access. Mr. Race said Rogers Street and St. John Street have entrances to the area. It is fenced in but people park on the street and enter the property leaving trash. Mr. Souza agreed it is a hang-out for people.

Mr. Hickey said CBC is across the street and built a large pier on the water. There are some Dartmouth residents who go there and CBC is planning to expand their adult classes.

Mr. Baker-Smith said they have given the proposal to Town Council to see if it falls within the legitimate uses of CPC Funds. He said whatever vote they take tonight will be contingent on the attorneys answer. Mr. Baker-Smith said the CPC Act is tricky regarding recreation. He said restoration may only be done on land that was acquired with CPC funds. However, when creating new recreation it is allowed. They are trying to see where this parcel will fit. He said he now understands the objective of this proposal. He said it could fall under creation – allowing CPC funds to utilize an underutilized area for recreational purposes. Mr. Race said they are trying to create recreational space on the waterfront.

Mr. Baker-Smith asked how they came to \$75,000. which seems low for this project. Mr. Race said this was to get started then the WMC will try to get political money/grants to continue the major work such as drainage, sewer, etc. Mr. Baker-Smith asked if future projects will replace work being done with the CPC funds. Mr. Race said that will not happen, in the future they will add to what is started. Mr. Metcalf said it was cleared years ago by the Town but the area was allowed to overgrow. Mr. Hickey said they are looking to a self-sufficient type of lighting. He said the WMC is very committed to this.

Mr. Souza asked who controls the site now. Mr. Race said the WMC does. Mr. Metcalf stated that any work done in the area where the tanks were has to be approved by the DEP. Mr. Baker-Smith asked if any permits have to be taken out for any of the work being done with the \$75,000. CPC grant. Mr. Race said

there are no known necessary permits; it is to be used for cleaning up the area. He said we have some retained earnings that will be used to help if necessary. Mr. Hickey said the WMC will try to get the neighbors involved before the clean-up. He said there will be controlled access to the water.

Mr. Souza said to be sure to check if there are any historical restrictions in the area such as right of ways. He also asked if this area will be similar to Appongansett Landing. Mr. Race said that is the goal. Ms. Thornton asked if there was a plan for the \$75,000. Mr. Race said that he has given a breakdown of this to Mr. Michael Gagne and he will get a copy forwarded to the CPC. He said that they have been very conservative with the numbers.

Mr. Baker-Smith suggested it would be a good idea to have community support for the project. He said to explain the big picture and what the funds will be used for. Mr. Race said the WMC will get letters of support for this. Mr. Metcalf said a lot of New Bedford residents use Appongansett and because of the Rogers Street location, this area is closer. Mr. Race said he will e-mail the information to Mr. Baker-Smith.

Mr. Hickey said that we will do some other additional recreational things that the land will allow such as picnic areas, etc. Mr. Baker-Smith said that it seems to be a good reuse of the area. They will vote on it later tonight and if voted on, it will then go to the Finance Committee, then to Town Meeting.

Mr. Baker-Smith said that CPC funds used on land require a restriction that it be used for open space recreation and be managed by the Waterways Dept. There will be an agreement in exchange for the funds. He said that it would be helpful to have WMC members at the meetings with Finance Committee and Town Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira