

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 20, 2007

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly called and held on Tuesday, November 20, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Roger Race. The following people were present: Robert Metcalf, Gerald Hickey, Chris Hemingway, and Ira Perry. Excused were Norman Pelouquin and Warren Hathaway. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Race reviewed the agenda for the meeting. Mr. Hickey moved to accept the agenda as amended. Mr. Hemingway seconded. So Moved.

The minutes of the meeting of September 10, 2007 and October 30, 2007 were reviewed. On October 30, 2007, second page last paragraph, Mr. Hickey moved to revise the first line to read **Mr. John Manheiro, Clearwater Architects, was in attendance at the meeting to introduce himself.** Mr. Perry moved to accept the minutes with the change. Mr. Metcalf seconded. So Moved.

Harbormaster Report.

Round Hill Tower. Mr. Melo stated he was present at the demolition of the tower. The water tower and dome top stayed intact when it hit the ground. He presented pictures to the WMC. He said it was discussed to turn the scrap into souvenirs with proceeds going to a worthwhile local charity. Mr. Hickey said Mr. Melo was on the television news and made a good presentation. Mr. Hickey wonders if there is another object that could be an icon for sailors on the water. Mr. Race said he is on a committee that is looking into putting up windmills on Town property that would be high enough to serve as visual landmarks, some approximately 300 feet high.

Vandalism. Mr. Melo stated there is vandalism continuing in the bridge area. He said this is the second time they have broken into and cut loose the pump-out boats. He said that the DPW is also tired of repairing bridge vandalism. He said they broke windows of the bridge-tender shack and at the landing. He would like to put security cameras at the landing, bridge and the pump out area and tie them into the office cameras and Police. Mr. Race feels that cameras and signs would help the security in the area. Mr. Hemingway said a couple cameras with a security system can go around \$2,000. Mr. Hickey said that the Police might be a help in designing systems. Mr. Melo said that we should look into a grant to get the newest technology. Mr. Hemingway said that he would have his security men take a look. Mr. Hickey would like to discuss this further at the next meeting.

Boat Storage. Mr. Melo he has been storing town boats on his family's land on Smith Neck Road. He said it isn't commercial property, the storage use is not commercial and is within the by-laws of town, but one of the neighbors has been making noise. It was to be a positive, free benefit to the town, but as usual someone is looking to ruin that. He said that there are four town boats stored there. The Town has previously stored them at the DPW yard, but it isn't a secured area. Ms. Hill said she would ask Brody if there is any room at Concordia.

Shellfish Coverage. Mr. Melo said that Mr. Kenneth Pacheco was only working 10 hours weekly, but he will soon be around 20 hours. Mr. Pacheco would be asking for additional coverage on the weekends. Mr. Melo said that these winter months are usually the only ones in which he gets any weekend time off. Mr. Race said we should stay away from the Shellfish issue. Mr. Hickey said the only way to oversee the shellfish department would be to have complete control over it. Mr. Melo pointed out that the two departments were initially merged, but had to later be separated due to funding source issues.

Old Business.

Rogers Street Property. Mr. Race said that he spoke with Mr. Michael O'Reilly. He said Mr. O'Reilly had another meeting with the DEP and nothing is really being said. Mr. O'Reilly is very vague with a timetable and to get back in touch with him after Thanksgiving. Mr. Race would like a letter from Mr. O'Reilly to send to Mr. Baker-Smith of the Community Preservation Commission describing the reason we delay. Mr. Hickey asked if there is any legwork that could be done beforehand to be able to start when the DEP gives their answer. Mr. Hickey said that he has been making calls on the area. He said that we could clear out the lot but leave the fence as is. Mr. Melo said that Plan B could be to start work on all the areas but the contaminated area. Mr. Hickey asked what an architect can do that the Town Planner cannot do, possibly for no cost. Mr. Metcalf said that the Town Planner could draw it up if we tell him what to do. Mr. Hemingway suggested using Engineers from the DPW. Mr. Hickey said to check into any hidden costs from the Town first. Mr. Race said that there have been surveys done in the past. Mr. Race suggested asking Mr. Perry if he could help us with the project. Mr. Hemingway said that we would have to put in drains for water run-off. Mr. Hemingway also said we have to check into any right-of-ways for the street before we can discontinue the street. Mr. Race said the street is

completely in Dartmouth. Mr. Race said that work is limited until we hear from the DEP. Mr. Metcalf said that Mr. Gagne has the information on the other lot. Mr. Melo said there are no restrictions on the second lot.

Rogers Street House Heat. Mr. Melo asked whether the Commission wanted to heat or winterize the meeting house. When not in use the thermostat is at 50 degrees, then to 65 for meetings. Mr. Hickey said that we should keep the house warm for the pipes. It was determined to keep the house at a low temperature.

Concordia's Mooring Permit Update. Ms. Carol Hill was present to update the WMC on their progress. Ms. Hill put together a package with all the new information she has. She said that they are in the 'Coordination and Consultation Phase'. She said that Mr. Brain Valiton has sent her copies of the public comments, especially the negative ones. She will respond to those she has. She said most of the comments have been positive. She was happy with the support she seems to be receiving. She said some negative responses have come from Mr. Jeff Lefabre from Hazellet, she has tried to respond to his comments. She said the Coalition for Buzzards Bay responded with a letter stating a few items they would like looked into for the environmental impact. Also a letter from Richard Ellis who is on the Town's waiting list, she replied that she would help him if possible. She said that she has about 100 people on their waiting list; Mr. Melo has a copy of it. Mr. Race said that time is passing and they need an answer for next season. Ms. Hill said that they send out their renewals by December 15 but she is unsure of the Town permits without ACE's permits. Mr. Race would like a meeting in December to keep up with any news and the mooring rates have to be set. Ms. Hill said she was reading the ACE site and it states that on average the individual mooring permit decisions are made within two to three months from receipt of a complete application. In that case a decision should be received between November 7 and December 7th.

Mr. Hickey said that the WMC has to set rates, but there has to be a public hearing set up to discuss the rates. Mr. Melo said that the public hearing could be held in conjunction with a regular meeting. Mr. Melo said that the Town Collector said that the payment system might change since she is short-staffed. He reminded her that the Waterways fund is paying \$23,000 to the general fund for Town Hall assistance. There may be some changes in the bill process. Mr. Hickey asked what is in retained earnings. Mr. Melo said there is about \$120,000. in retained earnings. Mr. Melo would like the annual house payments, DEP fees and insurance paid from retained earnings this year. The security system/cameras should come out of retained earnings. Mr. Hemingway asked what the landing generates. Mr. Race said approximately \$20,000.

DRMO. Mr. Melo said that he has received clearance to join the DRMO process for surplus government equipment, without going through the Police Department. Julian Race, Assistant Harbormaster, has applied for and received two laptops for free to the Department, to be picked up in Groton, CT.

Election of Officers. Mr. Hemingway said he would keep the vice chairman position but he cannot do Chairman due to time restraints this year. Mr. Hemingway nominated Mr. Hickey for Chairman. Mr. Hickey asked the time frame for officers, is it fiscal year. Mr. Melo makes a report to the Town and at that time the officers change. Mr. Melo said that the report becomes part of the annual town report. Mr. Hickey said he would accept the position of Chairman. Mr. Metcalf said that he would continue to fill the position of Secretary. The new officers would be: Mr. Gerald Hickey, Chairman; Mr. Chris Hemingway, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Robert Metcalf, Secretary. Mr. Race moved to accept the new officers. Mr. Perry seconded. So Moved.

Mr. Hickey said that the meeting should be earlier in December. The public hearing needs a 14-day notice in the paper. It was suggested to have the next meeting on December 4, 2007 at Rogers Street to discuss the fees and have the public hearing/meeting on December 11, 2007. Mr. Metcalf said that he will check into putting the notice in the paper or on the website.

Public Comment.

Mr. Don White asked Mr. Melo if the present camera could be moved to the other side of the building. Mr. Melo said that it can turn but it cannot view the bridge area due to the building next door. Mr. Metcalf suggested asking Davis & Tripp to use their roof; it would be security for their boats also. Mr. Melo said it would have to be wired into the present camera. Mr. Melo will check into getting cameras.

Mr. Metcalf moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Mr. Perry seconded. So Moved.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane L. Vieira