

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 18, 2007

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly called and held on Tuesday, December 18, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dartmouth Town Hall, this was a WMC meeting with a Public Hearing. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Gerald Hickey. The following people were present: Robert Metcalf, Roger Race, Warren Hathaway, Norman Peloquin, Ira Perry and Chris Hemingway. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Hickey reviewed the agenda for the meeting explaining that they would temporarily adjourn to the Public Hearing. He reviewed what would be covered in the Public Hearing and then they would revert back to the regular commission meeting after. Mr. Hemingway moved to accept the agenda. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved.

Mr. Peloquin moved to go into the Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m. Mr. Hemingway seconded. So Moved to go into the Public Hearing.

At 7:15 p.m. the Public Hearing ended and went back into the regular WMC meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of December 04, 2007 were discussed. Mr. Hemingway moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved.

Harbormaster Report.

Budget Update. Mr. Melo gave a symopsis of the budget to date. He said that they have had one fill-up of oil for the Rogers St. property. He reported that assistants salaries were in line and should be fine to the end of the year, he said that it didn't take into account the reimbursement from the Clean Vessel Pump-out Act.

DEP Compliance Assurance Fee. Mr. Melo handed out a letter from the DEP for Rogers Street, which included a third payment of \$2,000.00 to the DEP brings the current total to \$6,800 for compliance costs. Mr. Race said that he has been talking with Mr. O'Reilly weekly about any progress at the site and reported that there as been none. Mr. Hickey said he would like to speak with the state representatives regarding this. Mr. Hemingway said that Mr. O'Reilly would like to handle it. Mr. Peloquin said that before doing that the WMC should speak directly with the DEP on the progress at the site. Mr. Melo suggested telling the DEP that grant money is riding on the progress at the site. Mr. Hickey said that Mr. O'Reilly doesn't think any clean-up should be done at the site until the DEP answers.

Winterization of Boats. Mr. Melo said the department boats have been taken out of the water. He reported that there are still private boats in the water and maybe some future regulations should address this. He suggested the owners be warned about the dangers of winter weather; in the past there have been problems with boats left in the water and the department is not at full staff to handle any potential problems. He said he could contact the owners and notify them we are in winter mode and ask what their intentions are for their boats. Mr. Metcalf asked if there was a rule that winter sticks were to be in by a certain date. Mr. Melo said it is stated by November 15th in one regulation. Mr. Hemingway suggested a regulation be made that boat must be out of the water by December unless they have prior approval of the Harbormaster to keep it in. Mr. Melo stated that once the water freezes it is hard to reach the boats if a problem does occur.

Mr. Hathaway moved that any boat in the water after December 15th requires approval of the Harbormaster to stay in the water; without this approval the boat must be removed. Mr. Perry seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Hemingway said that this year we should contact the people and ask their intentions regarding their boats in the water. It is important to know if there is any fuel, etc. on the boat. Mr. Metcalf said that the only safe way to get to the boats after ice forms is the District 2 Air Boat. Mr. Race moved that Mr. Melo e-mail all the owners of the boats still in the water and ask their intentions regarding the boat. Mr. Metcalf seconded. All were in favor of notifying owners immediately.

Mr. Melo said that he would also pull out some of the floats at the landing. This isn't done yearly but it will allow him to do any cosmetic work needed on them and protect them from ice and weather.

Old Business.

Concordia Update. Ms. Carol Hill was present and stated that she hasn't received any news to date. She said that she would try again this week to contact them.

Rogers Street. Mr. Race said that there as been no action, he is keeping in contact with Mr. O'Reilly. Mr. Melo said that they are still looking into discontinuance of the street.

Personnel Sub-committee Update. Mr. Hemingway said they met with Mr. Melo to list his greatest needs for personnel. He said that data entry and clerical help is the most important. He said that phone coverage is important since Mr. Melo is out of the office on the water. They have come up with at job description for Assistant Harbormaster – Dispatch, Clerical & Office Administration. He said it would be approximately 1,000 to 1,200 hours yearly as needed. Mr. Hickey said that it would be advertised in the paper and posted at the Town Hall since it is a Town job. He suggested putting in an ad and have the resumes forwarded to the Harbormaster. The personnel sub-committee will then screen the applications and meet with Mr. Melo. Mr. Race moved to start the process and get it going. Mr. Peloquin seconded. So moved. Mr. Hemingway said to stress the clerical aspects in the ad in the paper. Mr. Melo said that this person will primarily be in the office but if there is a problem on the water, they will have to handle it. Mr. Hickey said that the phase 'Other related duties as dictated by the Harbormaster' will cover any needs on the water. Mr. Hickey feels that it should be a Seasonal position. Mr. Peloquin suggested that the Town Administrator should review this.

Commercial Mooring Sub-committee Update. Mr. Hickey said this sub-committee was set-up to review what happens when information is received or not received from the ACE. Mr. Race said that the committee included Mr. Peloquin, Mr. Hathaway, Mr. Melo and himself. Mr. Hickey said that decisions have to be made because permits expire on December 31. The bills are due March 31 so they have to be mailed by February 12th. Mr. Melo said that the mooring, boat and dingy fees go out. Mr. Race said that the Coast Guard has moved the channel and some moorings may be impacted by this. Mr. Melo said that up to 31 moorings could be impacted by the channel changes. Mr. Melo said that the Coast Guard doesn't want boats or moorings to interfere with the channel. Mr. Race said they have a detailed list of the chain lengths and will be reviewing it. Mr. Melo said the new channel would be 50 years wide; the old one had no definition of the width. He said it was never defined if we had a channel in the harbor. He said the Coast Guard has repositioned the buoys. Mr. Melo said that the Coast Guard would inspect the final finishes on the channel, if they want more he will do it. Mr. Hathaway feels that it is a good plan. Mr. Race said that he would like to present a plan at the meeting on January 8th.

New Business.

Waterways Issues / Brainstorming session. Mr. Hickey would like to make a list of issues to be addressed in the coming year. Mr. Race asked if there was a copy of the last brainstorming sessions of previous years. Mr. Melo will look into it and have it available at the January 8th meeting.

Mr. Hathaway said that he would like to hear from the public that attend many meetings on what they would like to see done. Mr. Don White said that one concern is to have someone in the office to answer the phone. He also said that more information should be available to the public. Mr. White said that the orange boat should have a name. Mr. Hickey said that they have tried to have someone write articles for the paper on the waterways but it didn't work out. Mr. Hathaway said that if anyone knows someone who would like to write articles to notify the WMC. Mr. Hickey said in the meantime information is kept updated on the web site.

Mr. John Hayes said that regridding the harbor is important. He suggested using students to help with this. Mr. Hickey said we are looking into the regrid of the harbor. Mr. Melo said that the lap circles have to be decided, if they can overlap or not. Mr. Hickey said that this might upset some people; some may have to be moved from spots held for years.

Ms. Hill said that the current regulations speculate that winter sticks have to be put in the water by November 15th. Mr. Hayes agrees with it and said that some insurance policies are specific in this.

It was moved by Mr. Peloquin and seconded by Mr. Race to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira