

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 05, 2008

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly called and held on Tuesday, February 05, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. 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. Mr. Peloquin moved to accept the agenda. Mr. Hemingway seconded. So Moved.

The minutes of the meeting of January 08, 2008 were discussed. Mr. Peloquin moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved.

Harbormaster Report.

Kitty Martin. Mr. Melo stated that Ms. Martin is a journalist and writes for Cruising World Magazine. She also has sailing background and she is willing to work with the WMC and write articles for the newspaper. She couldn't attend tonight's meeting due to illness. Mr. Hemingway said she would put together something and attend the next meeting. Mr. Melo said an article was previously started and he will follow up with Ms. Martin.

Oil Spill Response Planning. Mr. Melo said he met with the fire chiefs and a representative of Coalition for Buzzards Bay. They all went to Dartmouth sites that have a contingency plan for oil spills. He said there will be a plan in place for future disasters. He said that all towns have a binder with the Bay plan and in any emergency that binder will go and help expedite clean-ups. He said they are researching anchor points for booms. Mr. Melo said the Coast Guard is usually the coordinator for large spills; local spills are under the Town. He said that Slocum River is difficult due to currents, they need strong anchor points. Mr. Hathaway asked what will happen to the harbor summer in the case of a major spill. Mr. Melo said the main concerns are the salt marshes. Plans include deflection and collection booms. Mr. Melo said this plan has been set up since the Bouchard spill and is updated every few years. In cases of spills the Dartmouth Police call either Mike O'Reilly or himself.

25' Whaler. Mr. Melo said it is 5 years old and on a custom trailer. He said that an officer of Niceville, FL police has transported the boat to the police yard and they are storing it until delivery. He said that New Bedford received two boats and Dartmouth one. Mr. Hemingway asked if a list has been developed with all the boats and what are needed. Mr. Melo is working on it. Mr. Melo said boats are offered for free to the police department and he has refused some. Mr. Melo said when he receives the boat; he will determine the best use for it. Mr. Hickey asked if they will get rid of older boats. Mr. Melo said our boats can be sold, but the federal boats cannot.

2008 Billing Process. Mr. Melo said that the billing process is started. He is trying to simplify the invoice. He said the waiting list and dingy billing is almost ready to go.

2007 Year End Report. Mr. Melo handed out copies of the year-end report for the Annual Town Report.

Open Space and Recreation Meeting. Mr. Melo said the Town is putting a survey together for open space and recreation to determine what the residents need. He feels that waterway access is a big part of this. There will be a questionnaire for the resident to fill out, possibly at the annual election.

Water Service Bill. Mr. Melo said he hasn't spoken with the water department yet. He said this bill is for putting water on the bridge during hot weather. Mr. Hickey would like a breakdown of this bill. He has also spoken with Mr. Gagne about this and Mr. Gagne said that he will provide them with a breakdown of expenses. Mr. Melo said that he hasn't received an answer about the electric bills. Mr. Melo said that he received bills for other departments and will look into it; he said that he receives them from the Select Board office. Mr. Melo said the Hill Street electric bill he will be willing to pay. Mr. Hickey asked about the security camera. Mr. Melo said he is still looking into it and other options that could be used. Mr. Melo said that the new sewer pump station on Gulf Road could be used for the camera to oversee that area of the harbor. He will look to see if there are any web connections in the area.

Mr. Race said that he is still looking into solar lighting. He said he is researching the lights and where we can purchase it, but he hasn't been able to get any free samples. He also suggested using LED lighting at the pole at the town landing; he said they use little electricity and is very bright.

Vehicles. Mr. Hickey asked about department vehicles. Mr. Melo said that the black truck is at the DPW yard, it needs a lot of work. He said he is using an old Ford Explorer daily and it is working fine; he said it only pulls the smallest trailers. He said that the Army truck is waiting for a trailer hitch and will be used for pulling the boats. He said he doesn't need a new vehicle at this time.

Boat Insurance. Mr. Peloquin is looking into ways to save on the insurance. He has spoken with a broker and will try to get him to come to a future meeting.

Dingy Racks. Mr. Melo said one side of the pier still has boats piled up. Mr. Melo said that on the north side of the pier there isn't enough room for the racks. He is still looking into ways to accomplish this.

Old Business.

Concordia. Mr. Melo has spoken with Ms. Carol Hill who couldn't attend the meeting. She sent an update of the progress. She stated Mr. Brian Valiton said he is making progress on this. She also submitted a list of the unpaid Concordia customers for last year. Most of the people have since paid their fees when she notified them.

Personnel Subcommittee. Mr. Melo said that about 20 applications have been received. They will have a short interview with the selected few. He said if anyone wants to see the applications they can at the office.

Rogers Street. Mr. Melo said that the DEP has been paid. Mr. Race said that Mr. O'Reilly has called him back and the soil test results have come in, we are low on the lead. All the lots in the area are also low in lead. Mr. Metcalf said that Mr. O'Reilly told him they can start clearing the big lots. Mr. Race said they are waiting for the final determination from the DEP. Mr. Hickey said that Mr. Gagne told him there is a company in Freetown that can do this and remove all the debris. He will get a price from them and also from the Sheriff's Office for the inmates to clear it then remove the debris. Mr. Hickey said if anyone knows any company to let him know. Mr. Gagne also said that the debris could be burned on site during the burning season. Mr. Melo said there is also grading to be done. Mr. Race said that Mr. O'Reilly told him that the DEP would like to make this area a positive example of using land access to the water; and asked if we should hire a grant writer to look into any available grants. Mr. Hathaway wants to keep the neighbors involved in the progress. Mr. Melo suggested having a meeting that the neighbors could attend with any questions or suggestions they have.

New Business.

Donald Mayer. Mr. Melo said he received a letter from Mr. Mayer to change the Vessel on mooring 59-3A. It is a recreational mooring sought to be used by the MMA sailing program, not for profit. Mr. Perry said that the size of the vessel shouldn't be a problem. Mr. Melo said that they will pay all the fees. Mr. Hickey asked about possible concerns with other boaters. Mr. Melo said he sees no issues. Mr. Metcalf said it isn't a desirable location, it is outside Birchfield. There were no objections to this usage of a mooring.

Brainstorming Sessions. Mr. Hickey said that in the past they have looked into concerns to be resolved. The top five concerns were: 1. Manage all waterways to improve water quality; 2. Expand public access to the water, Rogers St, Hill St. & Slocum River; 3. Expand the bridgetenders area to have a harbormasters station and dingy dock; to add dingy racks and create a working dock; 4. Dredging the harbor and 5. Regridding and reorganizing of the harbor. Also, dingy racks, Rogers St., dredging of other areas, etc. were also on the list. Mr. Hickey said that in the past few years the WMC has accomplished some of the items on the list. He said we have dingy racks and are clearing the other areas to add more racks. Mr. Melo said that dingy floats may be better at the Hill Street area. Mr. Melo said he has some old floats in storage and will try to rebuild them this summer. Mr. Hickey asked about dredging the harbor. Mr. Peloquin said that Westport has done it but they received funding due to the commercial area. Mr. Metcalf said getting rid of the sand bar would give more space for future moorings. Mr. Melo said that commercial harbors get the funding first. Mr. Hemingway said that the bridge causeway should be

fixed first. Mr. Melo met with the DPW and state representatives regarding the repair of the causeway, he said they want a study first to see how it would affect flooding on the north side of the bridge. Mr. Melo suggested getting the permits ready and the funding ways will follow. Mr. Hathaway said that dredge program funding go to the commercial areas first.

Mr. Hickey said that Rogers Street should be the top priority project. Mr. Peloquin said that Hill Street is an important project to be undertaken. Mr. Melo said there are two areas of concern on Water Street, the Hill Street area and the Bridgetenders parking area, this area needs work done on the fence and having a dingy storage area. Mr. Peloquin said these two areas are big concerns. Mr. Hickey also said that we should be looking into plans to regrid the harbor. Mr. Melo said that some boats will be moved this year due to the Coast Guard relocation of the channel.

Mr. Hathaway said that the WMC should make a list of the big projects that have to be done. He said there is a lot of issues that have to be taken care of that will affect the big projects. Mr. Hickey said that we may need public hearings to inform the public. Mr. Hathaway said we have to present the issues and how they will affect the outline of the final picture. Mr. Melo said that people keep changing their boats when their mooring was given based on their original boat. Mr. Hickey suggested setting up subcommittee for the various issues. Mr. Hathaway said the WMC has to be able to answer questions on why the harbor should be regridded, he said we need common sense answers for the public. Mr. Hathaway said another issue is parking and access to the boats when the regridding is done and we have more moorings in the water. Mr. Melo said he would like the Town to help him with a Town Marina at Appongansett Point. Mr. Race asked if we could work with the Park Dept. and share the parking areas. Mr. Hickey said he spoke with Mr. Gagne regarding the marina but one of the problems is that there is no one to oversee the projects. Mr. Hickey spoke with Mr. David Nolan and invited him to our meetings.

Public Comment. Mr. Don White asked if Mr. Nolan will let people use the parking lot. Mr. Hickey said Mr. Nolan has a problem with boat storage. Mr. White also said that the articles in the paper will be a big help to keep the public informed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 8:00 p.m.

It was moved by Mr. Peloquin and seconded by Mr. Race to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira