

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

APRIL 07, 2009

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly called and held on Tuesday, April 07, 2009 at 7:04 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Chris Hemingway. The following people were present: Robert Metcalf, Roger Race, Warren Hathaway, Norman Peloquin and Michael Gill. Excused was Gerry Hickey. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Hemingway reviewed the agenda for the meeting. Mr. Race moved to accept the agenda. Mr. Gill seconded. So Moved.

The minutes of the meeting of March 11, 2009 were discussed. Mr. Race moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Gill seconded. So Moved.

New Business.

River Keeper Program. Mr. D'Arcy MacMahon, Executive Director of the Lloyd Center was present. He said that the Lloyd Center is working with the Buzzards Bay Coalition, Town of Dartmouth and U-Mass on the Turn the Tide project. They have been studying the rivers of Dartmouth to figure what is wrong with them. He said that studies are being done and there is hope that they will improve. He said samples are sent to U-Mass Dartmouth for analysis. The Lloyd Center has programs for the children of Dartmouth to be involved in with the waters of the Town. He said the children are getting involved and engaging their parents in this situation. He said he is involved in New Bedford creating a rowing course in the upper Acushnet River. He said the Lloyd Center is having a regatta on the Slocum River, to get people involved with the Slocum River and what it can be in the future. River Keepers are organizations that have taken interest in bodies of water and work to keep them clean; people seem to be involved when it targets a certain body of water. He said that the Lloyd Center is very enthusiastic to be involved in this type of program with the WMC. He said that the rivers in Dartmouth are most threatened by nitrogen levels. Mr. Hemingway said that we do not have any solid plan to implement, but this is the first step since the Lloyd Center has been involved with this in the past. Mr. MacMahon said that money is the issue they have now. He said that most programs are done with volunteers. Mr. Hemingway asked if there are any River Keeper programs that we could use as models? Mr. MacMahon said that he would look into it. He said that Dartmouth has great water resources. Mr. MacMahon said that the abutters to the Slocum River would be a good place to start to develop a group such as the Friends of the Slocum River. Mr. Hemingway suggested putting it on the agenda monthly for discussion. Mr. Hemingway said that Dartmouth has three great major waterways and it would be good not to focus on any one area, but all the waters. Mr. MacMahon said he would stay in touch with Mr. Melo. He said that September 19th will be the date for their 2009 regatta and there should be about 100 people involved. Mr. Melo asked about Save the Pasky and if they are involved. Mr. MacMahon said that people have been helping to clean up the Paskamansett River. Mr. Metcalf said that Mr. Michael O'Reilly and Bob Carney have been doing a lot of work on the Paskamansett River. Mr. Hemingway said that the whole river takes about 3 hours to canoe it.

Police Dept/Parker Shellfish Boat. Mr. Hemingway said the police dept. is trying to get money for the Parker. He said the Chief thought he would get waterways money for upgrading it. Mr. Iacaponi corrected the situation.

Capital Projects. Mr. Hemingway asked if we are earmarking money for projects. Mr. Melo said if we don't get CPC money for Rogers Street, some of our capital project money would be used for it. Mr. Hemingway asked if we should put an article on the warrant to use some of our reserve money for Rogers St. Mr. Race said that we should wait until we find the result of the CPC money. Mr. Race said that if we don't get the money, we could go to Town Meeting in the Fall. Mr. Hemingway said that Mr. David Hickox has the bid request on his desk, but he wants to be sure we have the money before we advertise for the bid project.

Dartmouth Enterprise/Waterway Fund Research. Mr. Melo said that researched the laws regarding enterprise fund systems and waterways accounts. Mr. Race said that the people have to know that the boats have the right of way at the bridge. Mr. Hemingway said that Mr. Melo answered the questions for the Finance Committee very thoroughly. We have the information on the laws if it is needed.

Old Business.

Rogers Street Update. Mr. Race said that the WMC would be meeting next Tuesday at 7:00 with the CPC regarding the request for Community Preservation funding. He said that Mr. Michael O'Reilly would join the WMC at the meeting. Mr. Race said that the CPC feels we are doing a good job clearing up the Rogers Street site. He will check with the CPC to see if they need any information beforehand.

Rogers Street Damage. Mr. Melo handed out the latest insurance information that he has received. He said that the needed plumbing repairs and the radiators have been included. He said that Mr. Iacaponi has been working on it. Mr. Melo said that a Town adjuster has been looking at it, he feels that the automobile policy should pay for it. Mr. Peloquin said he doesn't know why it hasn't been settled. Mr. Gill suggested getting other estimates for the house. Mr. Peloquin agreed we should get another estimate. Mr. Hemingway suggested calling Mr. Iacaponi about the progress and telling him that we want a new heating system. Mr. Peloquin suggested getting a public adjuster to give an estimate on the house from our budget. Mr. Race said that he knows a licensed plumber that will give an estimate. Mr. Race said the plumber works for the gas company and they may have an incentive program that we could use to convert. Mr. Gill suggested using glass blocks as a security measure to close the basement. Mr. Hemingway will check with Mr. Iacaponi on the progress of the claim. Mr. Race asked about the insurance on the house and who is paying it. Mr. Peloquin said to first see if the insurance is included in the overhead charges we pay the Town. Mr. Gill asked about the insurance on the new parking area. Mr. Peloquin feels it may have to be a separate policy.

Harbormaster Report.

USW Representation. Mr. Melo said he has not heard any official word, but he may not be included. Mr. Melo said that he now reports to Mr. Iacaponi and must go to the weekly departmental head meetings.

Vacation Schedule. Mr. Melo handed out a copy of the coverage while he will be on vacation. He stated he would be on vacation for 32 hours, from April 17th after 4:30 until his return on April 27th. He said that his usual weekly schedule would be covered on an on-call basis and assistant weekend hours totaling 86 hours. Mr. Hemingway said that this would have to be looked at when doing next years budget. Mr. Melo said that he would be notifying all town departments he works with that he would not be in Town. Mr. Hemingway asked if the WMC should be notified of any problems while he is out of Town. He suggested that Mr. Melo give the staff the phone numbers of the WMC in case it is needed. Mr. Hemingway will be the contact for emergencies.

Shellfish/Bridgetender Update. Mr. Melo said that he has opened the bridge about six times. Electrical failures struck twice already. He said that he hasn't heard any update on the Shellfish discussion. Mr. Hemingway said that he has been approached by the Shellfish *volunteer* for a reserved parking space at the landing along with a free season pass. Mr. Gill moved that no free passes or reserved parking spaces be given. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved. All were in favor. Mr. Peloquin said that it is a State landing and we should not be giving out free passes. Mr. Metcalf said that he feels the bridge is opened for boats that could fit under the bridge at low tide. Mr. Melo said that there is a federal penalty for requesting a bridge opening when a boat could go under the bridge with minor adjustments.

Vehicle/Vessel Update. Mr. Melo said that his vehicle is fixed. He said the white patrol boat is up and running. Mr. Melo said that he would be working on the other boats after vacation. Mr. Melo said that he has to replace the windows at the landing building; he said that it would be replaced with plastic. Mr. Hemingway suggested renting out the building for additional income. Mr. Gill said that the use of the building might have to go out to bid. Mr. Hemingway said they might have to put electricity to the building or the building closer to the poles to install electricity. Mr. Melo said that any commercial uses need to get permission from the Public Access Board.

Budget Update. Mr. Melo said that Mr. Iacaponi wants to meet with him and Ken Pacheco on the status of the departments. Mr. Melo said that they would meet after his vacation. Mr. Melo handed out a copy of the budget update. He feels that he is in better shape this year than last year. He said that the money is coming in faster with dock contracts. He hasn't heard from South Wharf. Mr. Melo said that there would be a SeaTow business running out of South Wharf. He said they seem to be willing to work with us. He said one of his assistants was

approached to work for them. He said that the two jobs have to be kept separate and not use one to promote the other. Mr. Gill said he should check the Ethics Commission for a judgment on that.

Public Record Request. Mr. Melo said that he received a request for a copy of the people on the waiting list. Mr. Melo replied that he wrote back that there is a \$7.00 fee for that list based upon the printed length. Mr. Peloquin asked what personnel information is on the waiting list. Mr. Melo said that addresses, phone numbers, vessels and e-mail addresses are on that list. Mr. Melo said that he will not give the phone numbers or e-mail addresses on the copies, he said that the forms state that these are for emergency contact only and will not be given out. Mr. Gill agrees that this information should not be given out. Mr. Melo said that just the person's name, address and similar will be given. Mr. Race feels information should not be given out at all. Mr. Melo said that there are statutes specifying distribution and some people must be excluded from the list for various reasons.

Public Comment. Mr. Don White said that the waiting list is on the computer if anyone wants to see it.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira