

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

OCTOBER 06, 2009

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly called and held on Tuesday, October 06, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dartmouth Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Chris Hemingway. The following people were present: Robert Metcalf, Roger Race, Gerry Hickey, Norman Peloquin, Warren Hathaway and Michael Gill. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

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

The minutes of the meeting of September 08, 2009 was discussed. Mr. Hickey moved to accept the minutes as amended with a spelling change. Mr. Hathaway seconded. So Moved.

New Business.

2010 Fees. Mr. Melo said that the 2010 fee rates need to be set for the commercial companies who will be sending out their contacts soon. Mr. Race has done a spreadsheet with the proposed rates. Mr. Melo reviewed the budget of the last fiscal year. He said that waterways revenues were lower than expected. This was due in part to people not putting boats in the water due to the economy. The town overhead was raised by about \$9,000 and an assistant will be needed to cover when Mr. Melo takes vacation. The routine engine rotation program will cost the Department roughly \$13,850 per year. He said the projected shortfall would be approximately \$35,525.

Mr. Melo handed out a summary of personal time he has accumulated. He said he has 3 weeks vacation, 86 sick days and 31.5 comp hours. The compensatory hours are only for the holidays he is required to work. He said that he has 3 personal days, which are not carried from year to year. Mr. Melo said that sick time accumulates until he leaves if not needed, with a cap. Mr. Hickey said that maybe money should be escrowed each year so that they will have money for any sick leave buy-out. Mr. Gill agreed with this. Mr. Hickey said that the assistants' salaries are part of the operating budget. Mr. Melo said that he would be taking vacation around the Christmas and during a school vacation.

Mr. Hickey said the regrid of area north of the bridge will also require additional funds. Mr. Melo said the main revenue for the department comes from mooring and boat fees. Mr. Race said the regrid should bring in 10-15% more moorings. Mr. Hemingway asked if the rates could be raised 10% across the board. Mr. Melo said the current rates are \$2.60 for residents and \$6.20 for non-residents, per foot. Mr. Race said that the spreadsheet adjusts what rate is needed only to cover the projected shortfall. Mr. Melo said there are 281 non-resident boats and 954 resident boats registered. Mr. Hemingway feels the rate increase should be the same for residents and non-residents. Mr. Hickey feels they should be a percentage. Mr. Hathaway asked if we know the revenue before the boating season starts. Mr. Melo said we have a figure but it can change if people decide not to put their boat in the water. Mr. Hickey said that we also get income from excise taxes. Mr. Melo said that the rates were last changed in 2007. The rates have only been adjusted once since the WMC was organized. Mr. Race said that any increase should be budget driven. Mr. Hemingway said that the new rates have to go to a public hearing.

Mr. Hickey also said we should be looking at other revenue, such as an increase in dingy rack fees. Mr. Melo said that the rates are now \$40.00 and they are sold out each year. South Wharf and Davis & Tripp charge considerably more per dinghy. Mr. Melo said that the State Access Board controls the setting of the launch fees. The waiting list fee is \$15.00, which is standard for the area, researching town like Marion and Westport.

Town Website Development. Mr. Melo said that the Town is establishing a new town website. He said that the Town would like to put agendas and minutes on the website, which we already do. Mr. Hemingway suggested that they look at our website, Mr. Melo said there will be a meeting tomorrow to discuss it. Mr. Melo said that our website already has on it what the Town wants. Mr. Hickey said that since the WMC sets the policies for the Dartmouth waterways, he moves to have our website designated as the official waterways website with a link to the Town website. Mr. Race seconded, all were in favor. Mr. Race suggested Mr. Melo attend the meeting and see what else the Town wants.

2 Sprung Buildings. Mr. Melo said that the CIP has plans for the buildings on Town property. Mr. Melo said that he had been looking into a public/private partnership for one of the buildings. Mr. Melo said that Concordia's back field came to mind. He said that the buildings have to be used for the Town to keep them. Mr. Metcalf said that FinCom will be recommending putting up the buildings; he said that the big one will go up at the DPW yard. Ms. Carol Hill of Concordia said that they may be interested in putting one building up. She said that they have to research the permit requirements for a temporary building. Mr. Peloquin said that we would have to lease the property from a private party to put up the building. Mr. Metcalf said that a small one might go behind the Police Station, which was part of the original plan. Mr. Hathaway suggested setting up a plan for the buildings and take the plan to the Town. He said that this will be important to our department since it will give us a place to work on our boats. Mr. Metcalf said that the Town would like to put vehicles under shelter. Mr. Hathaway feels we'll have a better chance if we approach the Town with a completed plan. Mr. Race said that it is on the warrant for the October Town Meeting.

CBC Uses for Rogers Street. Mr. Hemingway said that he spoke with CBC regarding them using the building. He said that they were interested in renting space from us. Mr. Hemingway feels that this would be a help in paying the mortgage and upgrading the property. Mr. Hathaway said that CBC will be agreeable on anything we can do to help them because they are short on space in their building. Mr. Hickey would like to see a dormer on the second floor to enable more use of the second floor.

Old Business.

Commercial Moorings Update. Ms. Carol Hill of Concordia said that people are starting to look into winter storage. She said that they didn't rent out as many moorings as normal; they are using some for transit moorings. She said that they are down approximately 10%. Mr. John Hayes said that his renter's boat got hit by a Concordia's customer boat; he feels that their boat is too close to his mooring. Mr. Melo said that they are both 25' powerboats and they touched while moored. Concordia's boat had marks on it from Hayes boat. The owner of the Hayes boat filed a claim that the Concordia boat damaged his boat. The Hayes mooring was inspected this summer, claiming the mooring hadn't moved. The Concordia mooring is due for inspection next year. Mr. Hayes hired Pioneer to check Concordia's mooring and they stated that the mooring had not moved. Mr. Melo said that it is the job of the insurance company to determine the cause of the collision, but Mr. Hayes' mooring was lifted and had compliant chain attached. It is likely Hayes customer never moved the previous inch and a half bottom chain. Mr. Melo said that the Hayes mooring will be moved next year away from the other mooring. Mr. Hayes feels his is a bigger mooring and shouldn't move on its own. Mr. Hickey said that the north side will be regridded and the south side in later years, so these mooring will all move. Mr. Hayes would like the problem to be fixed and he is willing to work with Mr. Melo. Mr. Melo said that he feels the problem can be resolved with one move.

Rogers Street Update. Mr. Melo said that the low bidder wants to do the job and is willing to wait until after Town Meeting. If the asphalt plant is open long enough the job will be done this year, if not they will finish in the spring. Mr. Hickey said that they will not touch the contaminated area until they are sure the project will be complete at one time. Mr. Mike O'Reilly will be keeping a close watch on the project. Mr. Hickey said that he is worried about cost overrun due to the contaminated area.

Donation Back of Brokers Commission. Mr. Melo said that the land was purchased through Gardner Reality and they donated their commission to the Department. Mr. Hemingway will send Gardner Reality a thank you note.

CPC Grant Recommendation. Mr. Race said that Mr. Buddy Baker-Smith will speak at Town Meeting regarding the grant. He said that Mr. Melo should be ready to answer any potential questions on this.

Roger Street Heating/Plumbing Plan. Mr. Melo said that they met with a plumber regarding the property. Mr. Hickey said that they should get quotes and get the job done.

Boat Insurance. Mr. Melo said that the insurance company will pay to repair the burned engine. Mr. Race said that we should just get the engine repaired this winter.

Appongansett Landing. Mr. Melo said that he has received no news on the handicap spaces. Mr. Hickey said if it has to be done, we should do it. Mr. Peloquin said to send a letter to the State regarding this.

Shack at the Landing. Mr. Melo said that he used bleach and cleaned up the building. He said that he would like to repaint the building trim; it hasn't been done since it was built by Voke in 2003. Mr. Hemingway said that if we do not use it, we should sell it. Mr. Melo said that it is a storage shed for tools used at the landing. Mr. Peloquin said that we could give it to the Park Department. Mr. Hickey will speak with Mr. Tim Lancaster of the Park Department about it.

Boat Update. Mr. Melo said that he has to update the information on the boats. He said the information on the boat that caught fire had the wrong year on the title. He said the horsepower for the 25' Whaler that will be used for winter service is 450 hp. Mr. Gill moved to put the newer engines on the boats. Mr. Hemingway feels we should recycle the engines down. All were in favor of ordering two new engines for the Ambar. Mr. Melo said the transom height is 30" on the Whaler; on the Ambar it is 25".

Harbormaster Report.

Padanaram Village Meeting. Mr. Melo said that he attended the meeting in the village. He said he mentioned that we will be regridding the harbor, he said there were questions on where the sailboats will be. He said that the construction over Brown Motors was the main reason for the meeting.

Budget Update. Mr. Melo gave the WMC a copy of the budget through August 30th.

Vehicle Update. Mr. Melo said that the Parker is still on the list because it's on the insurance policy. He said that the insurance on the Parker was paid by the Town. He said that the Department trucks will be going to New Bedford Voke for a tune-up and some repair work; he said it will be there for a few weeks. He also said that he will again ask them to paint the pick-up truck.

Public Comment.

Mr. Don White said he would like to know what rates will be proposed at the hearing for 2010. Mr. Race said residents will go from \$2.60 to \$3.20 and the non-resident will be \$6.20 to \$7.00 per foot. The mooring permit fees will also go to \$45 for individual and \$90 for commercial permits. Mr. Gill said that we should adjust all the fees at the same time, including the late fees. Mr. Gill moved to raise the late fee from \$50.00 to \$100.00 for mooring permit renewal. Mr. Peloquin seconded. So Moved. Mr. Gill feels that this may be an incentive to pay these fees on time. The dingy fees are \$40.00 for the rack and \$10.00 to leave it on the beach. Mr. Melo said that the racks have been there three years. Mr. Hickey would like to see more dingy racks put up. Mr. Gill moved to raise the dingy racks from \$40 to \$50. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved. Mr. Hickey moved to raise the rate for leaving dingys on the beach from \$10 to \$15. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved.

The next meeting is set for Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. This meeting will have a public hearing during the meeting to set the fees. Mr. Melo will advertise the meeting in the paper.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira