

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 03, 2009

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly called and held on Tuesday, November 03, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the Dartmouth Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Chris Hemingway. The following people were present: Roger Race, Gerry Hickey, Norman Peloquin, Warren Hathaway and Michael Gill. Excused was Robert Metcalf. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Hemingway reviewed the agenda for the evening explaining that they will adjourn into a public hearing then return to the public meeting. Mr. Hickey moved to accept the agenda. Mr. Gill seconded. So Moved.

The minutes of the meeting of October 06, 2009 was discussed. Mr. Hickey moved to accept the minutes with two spelling corrections. Mr. Hathaway seconded. So Moved.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the public meeting and open the public hearing at 6:40.

At 6:50 p.m. it was moved and seconded to close the public hearing and return to the public meeting.

New Business.

Town Meeting Vote. Mr. Melo said that Town Meeting voted to appropriate the CPC funding to finish the Rogers Street Project and separately to start putting up the Sprung buildings. Mr. Hemingway said that Mr. Iacaponi will be setting up a meeting with all involved with the Sprung buildings. Mr. Race said to get it in writing. Mr. Gill agreed. Mr. Hemingway said that one large building will be going up at the DPW and one at the Dartmouth Police Station. Mr. Gill said that the buildings can be set up different ways. Mr. Hathaway suggested sending a letter to confirm that we will be involved with the buildings. Mr. Hemingway said he will speak with Mr. Hickox at the DPW. Mr. Gill said that the letter should state that we got those the buildings. Mr. Melo suggested getting some guidance from Mr. Cressman. Mr. Melo said there should be an understanding on what will be allowed in the buildings.

Subcommittee for Mooring Regulations. Mr. Race said that with the regriding coming up there should be new regulations. He said he will be happy to be on the committee. Mr. Melo suggested involving stakeholders such as mooring companies and also non-committee members. Mr. Melo said that there was never formality given to sanctioning a mooring inspector by the Commission. Mr. John Hayes said that he will be on it. Ms. Carol Hill said that someone from Concordia will be on it. Mr. Melo will speak with Davis & Tripp and the other mooring companies. Mr. Hayes said that he would like to install Helix anchors and Pioneer is able to install it. Mr. Hemingway said he isn't against Helix's but with the regrid coming no one wants to have to move a permanent Helix. Mr. Melo said that Helix's are allowed now in Town on a case-by-case basis only. There are some areas in the harbor where they pull back out and don't work. Mr. Melo said that Martin Wayne installed a Helix at Salter's to see how it's working out. Mr. Race said that Helix is fine to use if the screw can hold in the bottom of the harbor. Mr. Hayes said that right now he is looking into them. Ms. Hill said that they have three in now and said they are expensive, about 4 to 5 times a regular mooring. Ms. Hill said that one Helix had a problem when inspecting it because it was too deep in the mud. She said that they aren't cost effective in some areas. Mr. Race said that Marion has alot of Helixes. Mr. Melo said that Marion requires a Helix on all boats over 25 feet. Mr. Hemingway said that the WMC will discuss this at the next meeting. Mr. Hickey said he will also be on the sub-committee. Mr. Hemingway said that Mr. Race and Mr. Hickey will co-ordinate this committee.

Old Business.

Rogers Street. Mr. Race said that work has been coming along good. Mr. Melo said that the company was there for about 4 hours and had alot of the clearing done. Mr. Hemingway said that they will be signing the contract at a DPW meeting. Mr. Hickey said that the amount of rocks estimated was accurate. Mr. Hemingway said that after the site was cleared there seemed to be fewer rocks than anticipated. Mr. Race said that the company would like to have it cleared and layer of asphalt down by December 15th. Mr. Hickey said they cut all the grass, even in the contaminated area. Mr. Melo said that he sent a thank you letter to Gardiner Real Estate regarding the contribution of their sales commission to the Waterways Division. Mr. Melo said that he hasn't received a

formal letter from the CPC yet. Mr. Melo said a decision is needed on the house heating system. Mr. Hemingway said that a sub-committee should be formed to finalize what to do with the house. He said that he would like to see the work done on the house and then rent it out to the Community Boating. Mr. Hemingway said that a contractor has to have insurance to do work for a Town. Mr. Hickey feels that we should get the house heated and be able to use it. Mr. Hemingway asked if we want to move the walls now. He also said that we should make the house handicap accessible. Mr. Race suggested inviting the Community Boating over to the house and get their opinion on how they would like to use the house. Mr. Melo said that there was \$12,000 in insurance money and \$5,000. from the purchase of the house, that can only be used for Rogers Street. Mr. Hemingway said that Mr. Iacaponi suggested getting a plan for Rogers Street and submitting it to the Select Board for review. Mr. Melo said that they do not have to go out to bid if they use the insurance money. Mr. Hickey suggested getting some quotes for comparison and get the job done. Mr. Hemingway said that he will get some ideas and bids for the next meeting. Mr. Melo said that he did a rough landscaping job on the bushes.

Appongansett Landing. Mr. Melo said that he wrote the letter to the State as requested. He said that it was mailed last week and he hasn't heard anything yet. Mr. Melo said that he was approached by Mr. Joe Michaud about dedicating the Town Landing to Arthur Dias and the new Gulf Road Bridge to Leonard Gonsalves. Mr. Race said that CPC would like a sign up at Rogers Street while work is being done; when the job is finished a permanent sign should be put up. Mr. Hickey suggested officially naming the Rogers Street area. Mr. Melo said that one of the sheds and the oil spill van at Rogers Street will need to be moved.

Harbormaster Report.

Budget Update. Mr. Melo gave the WMC a copy of the budget to date. Mr. Melo said that the money used to purchase the land has been returned to the budget in a separate line item he has access to. Mr. Melo said that \$88,000. remains in retained earnings. Mr. Melo said that Mr. Iacaponi said it is a good practice to supplement the budget from retained earnings if needed, and if it isn't used at the end of the fiscal year it will be returned to retained earnings.

Vehicle/Vessel Update. Mr. Melo said that both Town Department trucks are at Voke, they are being checked out. The Jet Ski has to be winterized. The 13" Whaler is still in the water and will be repaired when taken out. The 17' Whaler was tested will be winterized after the north side survey. The landing floats will be checked and determined whether to leave them in or take them out. He said he doesn't want to spend much on the floats until he sees the final landing plan from the State. He has a shore side pump out station that has to be installed. Mr. Melo said that Davis & Tripp will work on the burnt engine during the winter. He will co-ordinate the motor exchanges with Davis & Tripp after Town Meeting. Mr. Melo said that Davis & Tripp will do the heavy lifting work on the engine work. Mr. Gill suggested that when the assistant harbormasters have spare time they could start the wiring on the other boats. Mr. Melo said it would be better for them to work on it indoors when the boats are at Davis & Tripp. Mr. Melo said that sadly Scupper the Harbor Dog passed away unexpectedly from cancer in mid-October.

Mr. Melo said that he received a message from Mr. David Cressman of a problem with the Shellfish Department. He said that Mr. Ken Pacheco notified the Select Board that he will shut down some shellfish beds because he doesn't have the hours required to patrol them. Mr. Cressman said that Mr. Pacheco should have reported it to Mr. Melo and then from Mr. Melo to the Select Board. Mr. Melo told Mr. Cressman that wasn't how it worked in the past – he has no training or knowledge of shell-fishing enforcement. Mr. Cressman said that he would like it under Mr. Melo to reduce the number of people that report to the Administrator and will send him a memo to this effect; Mr. Melo hasn't received any memo as of now. Mr. Melo said that he felt he would help the Shellfish Department whenever possible, but not supervise it. Mr. Melo also said that the DPW is calling him to open the bridge. He said that he will help the DPW with bridge opening whenever he is able, but DPW will make the schedule and send someone when he is not available. Mr. Race suggested asking Mr. Cressman to a later meeting. Mr. Hickey said we could make a list of our policies and recommendations and send it to Mr. Cressman. Mr. Race agreed. Mr. Hemingway said that the WMC should have this meeting with Mr. Cressman to explain the policies they have established, without putting Mr. Melo in the middle of this.

Department Head Meetings. Mr. Melo said that he complies and goes to the meetings but he doesn't want the harbor to be without coverage. Mr. Hickey suggested that Mr. Melo leave the meetings if needed on the water. Mr. Gill said that Mr. Melo needs another permanent assistant to cover when he isn't in the office. Mr. Melo said that he has a few meetings and events in the next few weeks which will cause him to be out of the office. Mr. Hickey asked if Mr. Melo has an agreement with surrounding towns to help cover each other. Mr. Melo said none is established noting Westport is part-time and New Bedford has coverage with the police department.

Mr. Melo said that the boat "Blue Diamond" recently hit the bridge due to operator error. Mr. Melo also said there has been a rash of small outboards taken from the Padanaram area. Mr. Gill said that the people should record the serial numbers from the motors and it will help the Police Department to trace them. Mr. Hemingway suggested notices on the website that this is happening and for boaters to keep watch while in the water.

Public Comment.

Mr. Don White asked about the Helix in the regrid. He wants to know if it is suggested to get Helixes. Mr. Hemingway said that they are just discussing it now.

Ms. Carol Hill said that Concordia is still offering the field for town boat storage if needed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Room 314 in the Town Hall.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

PUBLIC HEARING

NOVEMBER 03, 2009

At 6:40 p.m. on Tuesday, November 03, 2009, it was moved and seconded to go into a public hearing of the Waterways Management Commission by unanimous roll-call vote. So Moved.

The public hearing was called to order by the Chairman, Chris Hemingway. The following people were present: Roger Race, Warren Hathaway, Norman Peloquin, Gerry Hickey, and Michael Gill. Mr. Robert Metcalf was excused. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Melo explained the establishment of the Waterways Management Committee and its right to set the rates and rules of the waterways. The Commission is allowed the powers given by the Town Charter and is the overseer of the Waterways Enterprise. The public hearing was published in the local paper on October 15, 2009. Mr. Melo said that MGL Chapter 38, Section 2 requires a hearing for any changes in regulations.

Mr. Hemingway said that the proposed rates for 2010 go from \$2.60 to \$3.20 per foot for residential rates and from \$6.20 to \$7.00 for non-residents. He stated that the reason for the increase is to close a growing gap in the budget caused by decreased boater numbers and increased Dept. operating costs..

Mr. Hemingway said that the mooring rates will be \$45.00 for individual and \$90.00 for commercial; up from \$30.00 and \$60.00.

Mr. Hemingway said that the late fees payments for mooring renewals will be \$100.00 up from \$50.00.

Mr. Hemingway said the dingy rack fee will be \$50.00 from \$45.00 and the fee to leave a dingy on the beach will be \$15.00, up from \$10.00.

Mr. Hickey said to let the minutes show that the last increase in mooring fees was in 2005 and the waterways fees was changed to a per-foot rate in 2006.

Mr. Hemingway said that the increase should show approximately \$40,000. in new revenues.

Public Comment. None.

Mr. Hickey said that we are trying to keep the rates reasonable and we are below the surrounding areas.

Mr. Gill moved to accept the rate increases. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved.

Mr. Melo said that he will take the vote and procedure and bring it to the Town Clerk who will enter it into the record as an adopted regulation of the Waterways Commission.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the public hearing at 6:40 p.m. and reenter the public meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira