

## MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

AUGUST 23, 2010

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly called and held on Tuesday, August 23, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dartmouth Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by the Secretary, Gerald Hickey. The following people were present: Roger Race, Chris Hemingway, Warren Hathaway, Michael Gill and Joseph Hannon. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

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

The minutes of the meeting of August 10, 2010 was discussed. Mr. Race moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Hannon seconded. So Moved.

### New Business.

Open Meeting Requirements. Mr. Melo said that the State regulations have changed; we now need 4 business days, excluding weekends and holidays, before the meeting and the agenda for the meeting has to be posted. Mr. Melo said that there is a question if the minutes should be posted before the minutes are approved. Mr. Hannon said that even hand notes could be considered. He said that they are public records and could be available to the public. Mr. Race asked if they could be posted with DRAFT across them. Mr. Melo said that he will research the new regulations before posting the minutes. Mr. Hathaway suggested waiting until official notice is given by the Town. Mr. Melo said that the minutes will be available in the office if someone would like to see them, draft or otherwise, but the minutes should be checked for accuracy before posting. Mr. Hannon said that some minutes could be shorter than others. Mr. Melo said that the minutes should contain all matters that were discussed and votes taken. Mr. Race moved to continue with the present method until we hear more from the Town officials. Mr. Hannon seconded. So Moved.

Rogers Street Ramp. Mr. Melo said that there are boulders on the edges of the ramp. Mr. Melo said that weather affects the area. Mr. Hickey said that he spoke with Conservation Commission and was told that some groups have received approval when something happens to the sand they can move it back. Mr. Melo said that CBC is required to clear out for the flow under their pier. Mr. Hickey said that he has seen the two repaired ramps in New Bedford and they did a good job on them. He said that in both projects the State Public Access Board was involved in it. Mr. Race said that the Public Access Board is advertising that anyone wanting a ramp can apply to them. Mr. Race said that people are now using the ramp as it is. Mr. Hickey feels since New Bedford is doing alot in the harbor, should New Bedford be involved in this area. Mr. Melo said that the State Public Access Board runs the Arthur Dias Landing. They maintain the ramp and anything associated with the ramps, and the Town maintains the parking area and upkeep of the area such as lighting and utilities. He said that the State has nothing to do with the pier itself. Mr. Hickey asked if the Public Access Board should be involved in the Rogers Street ramp, he said Mr. Race has drafted a letter to the Public Access Board. Mr. Melo said that any parking lot is a package deal with the ramp. Mr. Race said that signs should be put up regarding use of this area. Mr. Race said that the neighbors seem to approve of the work done in the area. Mr. Race said that the only requirement for the CPC grant is that the public have access to the area. Mr. Hemingway feels that we should lease the area to Community Boating; they could use the area as it is. Mr. Race feels that CBC could help us financially with the area. Mr. Race said that when he sends the letter to the Public Access Board it will be awhile before getting an answer. He said that talking to CBC regarding leasing them the parking lot for their use will help. Mr. Melo said we need to get bids for leasing the area. Mr. Hickey agreed to talk to CBC. Mr. Melo said that Mr. Joseph Vieira, Safety Officer, is meeting with the Select Board tonight to discuss safety regulations in the area. Mr. Melo said that he suggested making the end of Rogers Street a one-way so that vehicles would have to go through the parking lot and drive up Rogers St. to back into the ramp. Mr. Gill said that he gave Mr. Vieira drawings of the area. Mr. Hemingway moved to accept the letter to the Public Access Board. Mr. Hannon seconded. So Moved. Mr. Melo said in the past the Public Access Board refused the area since there was no parking, we have resolved that and secondly, there were other ramps in the same general area. Mr. Gill suggested giving a copy of the letter to Mr. Peter Durant of CBC. Mr. Hathaway said that we have to keep in contact with CBC regarding the area. He said that most parking problems in the area are due to activities at CBC. Mr. Hickey said he asked Mr. Durant to put CBC's intentions in writing to the WMC, but nothing has been received. Mr. Hannon said he is concerned no pressure will be taken off the Dias Landing with this ramp and no revenue will be coming in for the upkeep of

the area. Mr. Gill said that the police patrol Jones Beach at night and they can swing through the parking lot. Mr. Hickey said that we should look into a working arrangement with CBC for use of the parking lot. Mr. Gill said that the traffic on the New Bedford side is the problem with parking. Mr. Melo said he had a call inquiring about the number of moorings in Clarks Cove. He said that CBC has no moorings in Dartmouth. Mr. Hickey said that this area is a good area to put children in the water. He feels it could work out good between CBC and Dartmouth. Mr. Race said that we should talk directly to CBC board, if no parking signs are to be posted, they will need a place to park.

ConCom Agent. Mr. Melo said that Mr. Michael O'Reilly volunteered to research the time frame and cost for ramp construction. Mr. Hickey moved to give Mr. O'Reilly authorization to inquire about ramp construction estimates. Mr. Gill seconded. So Moved.

C.I.P October Warrant Articles. Mr. Melo said he will not be able to attend the CIP meeting Friday. He gave a summary of the articles. He said the by-law regulation articles were canceled until they can be reviewed by the By-Law Committee. Mr. Hannon said that there is a committee looking into all the Town by-laws. Mr. Melo said they will be requesting \$57,000. from waterways retained earnings to supplement the FY 2011 budget. First, approximately \$7,000. to upgrade the radio communication equipment to regain compatibility with the Police; including \$1,800. for a base unit, \$2,300. each for 2 handheld units and \$600. for a scanner. Second, approximately \$16,000. to repair and replace dock floats and access areas. Third, \$8,000. for camera/video surveillance equipment for the harbor, Fourth, \$12,000. for electronics and other upgrades for rescue craft reliability on the boats, Fifth \$2,000. for painting, lettering and communication equipment for department vehicles and Sixth, \$12,000. to purchase a sub-meter GPS for \$7,000. and professional services for the North side Re-grid \$5,000. If this money is not used, it will be returned to the Retained Earnings at the end of Fiscal Year 2011. Mr. Hickey said that the vehicles have to have good equipment. Mr. Melo said that he has new defibrillators for the vessels. Mr. Gill said that all the boats should have the same equipment for communication between them. Mr. Gill moved to accept the warrant article. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved. Mr. Hickey and Mr. Hannon said that they will attend the meeting on Friday.

Meeting with Mr. David Cressman. Mr. Hannon said that the meeting was very productive. He said that they reviewed the accomplishments of the WMC. They also reviewed the pending projects we have. Mr. Hannon asked if we could use borrowed money for the re-grid and Mr. Cressman said he will speak to the Treasurer on this. They also discussed the vacancy on the WMC and it will be announced at tonight's Select Board Meeting. Mr. Melo said that they discussed the proposed by-laws; he said that a new by-law committee is being set up to look into all town by-laws. He will meet with the committee to discuss our proposed by-laws. Mr. Melo said that September 14<sup>th</sup> cannot be the public hearing on the by-laws due to State elections. Mr. Melo will check to be sure that all members have received the new Rogers Street Regulations. Mr. Melo suggested the new meeting/hearing be on September 21, 2010 or September 28, 2010.

Transient Mooring Use in Dartmouth Waters. Mr. Melo said he has been researching this and there aren't any specific rules allowing transient mooring use in Dartmouth. He said that New Bedford Yacht Club has been doing transient moorings. He said the NBYC had been moving one member from mooring to mooring, he wasn't on the waiting list but he is now on it. He said this has happened in the past, and it came up again recently. He said the printed rule on this is that that no vessel but the vessel of record can go on a mooring without the Harbormaster's approval. Mr. Melo said that he has asked NBYC for some information. Mr. Hathaway feels that NBYC should create a committee to work with us on the transient issue. Mr. Melo said that he is reviewing some transient mooring regulations from other Massachusetts towns. He said that NBYC is sending a daily list of all vessels and what moorings are being used. Mr. Hathaway said that it is important that the Yacht Club be responsible for this. Mr. Melo said that transient boaters have been referred to NBYC, they pay a club use fee of \$50.00 which entitles them to use the mooring, launch service, showers and restaurant. Mr. Hemingway said that we shouldn't discourage transients; it gets people into the village. Mr. Hannon said that after the re-grid we may be able to have Town transient moorings. Mr. Melo suggested working with the NBYC Waterfront committee.

Old Business.

Rogers Street Security Camera Bids. Mr. Melo said that he just received some bid information tonight. Mr. Hannon said that there are no warranties over three months. Mr. Race will take the bid back to the company and ask about extended warranties as discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Hannon moved to table this for more information. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved.

CPC Grant Balance. Mr. Hemingway said that he would like to see the list of the remaining projects for Rogers Street and where the security cameras are on the list.

Rogers St. Light Problem. Mr. Melo said that there are still no working overhead lights. NStar Electric feels that substandard lights were used and Fortin Electric said they work fine, he has used it other places. NStar said one light had water in it, Fortin said that NStar ran the wire without a loop so the water went right into the light. Mr. Melo said that the installation bill had been paid before any problem was discovered. Mr. Hannon moved to refer this problem to Town Counsel. Mr. Hathaway seconded. So Moved. Mr. Hemingway asked if these were on our poles. Mr. Melo said no, we have to ask NSTAR permission to put something on the poles.

CBC. Mr. Hickey said that he spoke with Mr. Peter Durant, asking him to send a letter to the WMC with his proposals for the area. Mr. Race said if 'No Parking' signs go up, something will have to be done for CBC parking.

Safety Officer Recommendations for Rogers Street. Mr. Hickey said he called the Police Department and was told Mr. Vieira will be making recommendations tonight at the Select Board. Mr. Gill said that he will check with Mr. Joe Vieira to see what transpired at the Select Board meeting.

North Side Re-Grid. Mr. Melo said that the contract went to Mr. David Cressman for review during the meeting he and Mr. Hannon had with him. Mr. Hannon said that the WMC voted previously to have the Chairman sign the contract after review. Mr. Melo said he will check with Mr. Cressman on the status of the contract. Mr. Melo said he will not be telling the boaters that boats have to be hauled out by October 15 but that the re-grid will still be in the near future, off-season. Mr. Hannon said that most of the boats will be out of the water by the end of October anyway. Mr. Hannon said the boat radius used will determine how many boats can be put in the water. Mr. Race said that the circles will just touch but the vessels should not hit each other. Mr. Gill suggested moorings not be placed near the dock for future dock expansion.

Harbormaster Report.

Mr. Melo said he received a request to use the Rogers Street parking lot for a whale-boat rowing activity. Mr. Melo also reported that the Davis & Tripp barge capsized right after the last meeting, likely causing a backlog of mooring work for the end of summer.

Vehicle/Vessel Update. Mr. Melo said that the vessels are fine. The dock hoop has been improved installed and works well.

Public Comment. None.

The next meeting with a public hearing is scheduled for September 21, 2010; back-up date September 28, 2010.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira