

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

SEPTEMBER 21, 2010

A public hearing of the Waterways Management Commission was duly called and held on Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at 7:03 p.m. at the Dartmouth Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Michael Gill. The following people were present: Chris Hemingway, Gerry Hickey, Roger Race, Warren Hathaway and Joseph Hannon. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster. The purpose of this public hearing is the Rogers Street Rules and Regulations.

Mr. Melo read the notice published in the August 27, 2010 issue of the Standard Times on the public hearing.

Mr. Melo said that the only written comment he received was from Mr. David Cressman on behalf of the Dartmouth Select Board. Mr. Melo read the letter from Mr. Cressman requesting that the rules and regulations be posted on the website. He said that the Select Board would like people to have more access to the area. Mr. Hickey asked what Mr. Cressman referred to as 'less restricted use of the space'. Mr. Melo said that he wasn't sure but the Select Board feels that people should have access to the water at that site. Mr. Hickey asked what happens at Dias Landing in winter snow storms. Mr. Melo said that the DPW makes a plow pass through the landing parking lot making an in and out passway and also opens up the ramp for use. The ramp really isn't used much in winter due to the ice into the water. He said there are no gates or time restrictions at Dias Landing. Mr. Hickey said that he would like to keep Rogers Street open year round but security in that area will be a problem. Mr. Gill said that Jones Park doesn't close the gates but the area is posted closed during off-hours. Mr. Race said that it should be posted that this area is under camera surveillance. Mr. Hickey said that April 1 to September 30 was the original time selected to keep Rogers Street open. Mr. Hannon asked about the ramp condition. Mr. Race said that the Public Access Board is willing to help us with the ramp. Mr. Race said that people are using the beach now. Mr. Gill asked about keeping the gate near the house open with a surveillance camera. Mr. Hickey mentioned keeping the ramp open with 'Use at Your Own Risk' signs. Mr. Race feels that signs should go up. Mr. Hathaway said we shouldn't endorse the rules until the ramp is ready. Mr. Hickey feels signs should to up cautioning use of the ramps since the parking area will be used. Mr. Hannon feels that the Select Board may have been referring to use of the ramp not the new parking area.

Mr. Race reviewed the rules and regulations. Mr. Hickey suggested taking out all reference to 'launching' in the regulations and replace it with 'parking'. The same fees will be used as the Dias Landing. Mr. Hannon said that the day parking permit would expire at the end of the day at the posted closing time. Mr. Melo suggested calling it a facility permit but Mr. Hannon feels it should be parking permit at this time. Mr. Don White said that the parking lot is lined for parking with trailers and maybe the lines should be redone. Mr. Hickey feels it should stay as is since buses will be parking in the area. Mr. Gill said that small boats using trailers would be parking there. It was moved and seconded to replace 'launching' with 'parking' in the rules and regulations for Clarks Cove. Mr. Melo said that Sub-sections 6 thru 9 will be deleted; Sub-section 11 will be deleted due to the Police posting the streets for 'No Parking'. Mr. Hathaway asked how many spaces are on the water. Mr. Race feels about 6 spaces. Mr. Hickey said that curb stops would be placed in the area. Mr. Race feels that Sub-Section 20 should stay, we didn't use state funds but it should be consistent with Dias Landing. Mr. Melo said that it could be changed in the future if needed. Mr. Race said that Sub-Section 21 should be taken out. Mr. Melo said that in Sub-Section 22 no amount of fine was mentioned since it can change. Mr. Race feels that Sub-Section 23 should be deleted. Sub-Section 24 deals with hours of use. Mr. Melo explained that when meeting with the neighbors, they liked the hours of 7:00 am to 9:00 pm as the hours of use. Mr. Gill said that Jones Park closes at 7:00 unless there is a game. Mr. Hemingway feels that some boaters will like to stay later. Mr. Gill said to leave it as is. Mr. Race said that the neighbors want a closing time. Mr. Melo suggested leaving it at 9:00 p.m. or with permission for a later time. Sub-Section 25 is the months of use. Mr. Race said that it will be locked up from November 1 to April 1. Mr. Peter Durant of CBC said that some high school classes start during March. Mr. Race said that it can be opened for a special event with permission of the Harbormaster. Mr. Melo said that if the State Public Access Board becomes involved with the area the rules and regulations will change. Mr. White again commented on the striping of the area. Mr. Melo said that no parking cars in trailer spaces doesn't apply to this area since the Public Access Board is not presently involved. Ms. Nathalie Dias asked about allowing trailers into the area before launching is approved. Mr. Melo said that if CBC uses the area they might have trailers. Mr. Hickey said

that we may have to make adjustments to the rules and regulations in the future. Mr. Hickey moved to adopt the rules and regulations as amended tonight. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved. All in favor.

Public Access Board Involvement. Mr. Melo said that he met with the State Access Board about their involvement in the building of a concrete ramp. He said that everyone is in agreement that it will never be a 'big boat' ramp since the water is too shallow. He said that the Public Access Board agrees that it is for small boats and car top boats. He said that they recommend 12' long 14" wide concrete planks connected run from the street to the water, which the state has in stock. Mr. Race said that Mr. Mike O'Reilly of Conservation feels there are obstacles to this; such as the sand near the ramp. Mr. Hickey said that there are rocks near the water; he said that the DPW could spread the accumulated sand periodically during the year. Mr. Hickey feels that the State Access Board may be a help in this area. Mr. Race said that the ramps will last about 40 years. Mr. Melo said that Mr. Michael Gagne would like to speak to the WMC about State Access Board involvement before we deliberate involving them. He said Mr. Gagne, has had working experiences with the State Public Access Board. Mr. Melo said the ramp will end at the low water mark. Mr. Durant said that he has put Whalers in the water at Rogers St. but it is hard work. He said low tide is hard on tires. He said that if a trailer is on the concrete ramps there could also be a problem with having enough water. He said the only boat he has seen routinely launched there is a Hobie 16. Mr. Race said another option for the area is if Conservation Comm. will allow the DPW to plow the area a few times a year and use it as it is used now. Mr. Hannon asked if the State Access Board is involved would they pay for the construction and maintenance of it. Mr. Melo said that they do, but sometimes it is a long wait for them to do the work; this is what Mr. Gagne would like to talk to us about. Mr. Melo said that the Town will have to get permission from the Public Access Bd. to do any work on the landings. Mr. Race said that the Public Access Board is willing to speak with the WMC at a future meeting. Mr. Hickey feels we should get our priorities in order and get it done. Mr. Melo said that we will need a spot for the payment box and have the box made, and put up the necessary signs in the area. Mr. Melo said this should be done before the springtime. Mr. Hickey feels that we should get the signs and box ready now to be installed in the spring. Mr. Hemingway feels we have to decide how the Public Access Board fits into this and if we really need to have them involved; what benefit we will have from them. Mr. Melo said the Town and WMC has done considerable work on this project, should we get the Public Access Board involved at this late time or keep it under local control? Mr. Hannon asked about liability coverage if they are involved. Mr. Hemingway suggested talking to them about the Dias landing and asking some question on Rogers Street.

Mr. Melo said that signs and the payment box should not be done until we have final approval on the rules and regulations. Mr. Hickey said that we should get their approval. Mr. Melo said that he will forward the rules and regulations, as revised, to the Select Board for approval.

Mr. Hemingway asked what is left in the CPC grant. Mr. Melo said that there is enough money left to finish the project and gave the balance amounts left.

At 8:15 pm. Mr. Hannon moved to close the Public Hearing and resume the Public Meeting. Mr. Hickey seconded. So Moved.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira