

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING  
JUNE 14, 2011

A public hearing of the Waterways Management Commission was duly called and held on Tuesday, June 14, 2010 at 7:05 p.m. at the Dartmouth Town Hall, Room 315. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Joseph Hannon. The following people were present: Chris Hemingway, Roger Race, Michael Gill, and Gerald Clark. Excused were Warren Hathaway and Gerald Hickey. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster. The purpose of this public hearing is the North Side Re-grid and Rogers Street Regulations.

Mr. Melo read the notice published in the May 28, 2011 issue of the Standard Times and the June 1, 2011 issue of the Chronicle on the public hearing.

North side Re-grid.

Mr. Melo said that CLE Engineering worked on this project with the Waterways Commission. He noted that there is a chart available of the mooring field. Mr. Julian Race explained the chart to the public on an overhead display. Mr. Melo explained that CLE did the mooring field up to the island and Julian continued it north of the island. Ms. Susan Nilson of CLE explained that there were hired by the Town to revise the mooring field. She explained that there was a 50' wide fairway thru the field to the bridge, and a 30' to the north. Mr. Melo said some of the latter was changed to give more space for additional moorings. Ms. Nielson explained that the mooring circles have a 0%-40% overlap depending on the location. She explained that the overlap depends on the current and other factors with some needing 0% overlap and others having some overlap. She said that they aligned rows from south to north and assigned spots for existing vessels depending on the draft requirements and overall length of the vessel; then they will use the remainder of the area for the waiting list. She said that Mr. Melo assigned vessels to the grid. Mr. Melo said that they are assigning the people as close as possible to their present location whenever possible, based upon deeper draft boats first. He said that Town Meeting appropriated waterways money for the regrid. Mr. Hannon said that they would be getting bids on the project of moving the moorings; it should be awarded this summer. Mr. Melo said that 263 moorings would be moved; he said that there would be 350 moorings when the project is finished.

Mr. Hannon opened the hearing to public questions. Mr. Peter Wardwell asked why the swings are different. Ms. Nielson said that they are based on the vessel and chain lengths and current flow through the bridge. Mr. Wardwell asked what would happen in the future when the vessel leaves. Ms. Nielson said that the circles include a 5-foot range for different boats in the future. Mr. Wardwell asked if it was discussed at one time to put all the sailboats on the south side. Mr. Melo said that it might have been asked but this topic was never discussed; he said that there is a sailboat business north of the bridge and we will not put them out of business. Mr. Ron Racine asked about any channels. Mr. Melo said that we didn't leave a channel since some of the vessels do not need any overlap and we would lose mooring locations; also that the boats shouldn't have any problems navigating through the mooring field. Mr. Julian Race said that some moorings would require larger floats with reflective tape so they will be easier to see. Mr. Racine asked about parking. Mr. Melo said that there would be no new moorings near the islands so there will be no additional parking needed. Mr. Hemingway said that Concordia is looking into having a valet service in the future. Mr. Cliff Rice asked if the rows have been renumbered. Mr. Melo said that the new number system should be easier to know, the numbers will indicate the row number and mooring number; all the numbers will start from the bridge. Mr. Melo said that west of the moorings will be the recreational area. He said there would be six moorings near the causeway for town moorings; these will be used for transients.

Mr. Melo said that the '0' overlap might be too conservative. Mr. Wardwell asked if 'like' boats would be kept in the same area. Mr. Melo said that they are trying to do this. He said that the draft of the vessel was the first priority in assigning spots. He said he knows there will be some complaints, which will be handled as they are received. Ms. Nilson said that she recommends waiting to assign people from the waiting list until the present mooring owners are settled in their new spots. Mr. Wardwell said that some moorings have shifted over the years. Mr. Hannon said that a sub-meter GPS would be used to determine the new locations. Mr. Melo said that if the 40% overlap isn't safe, it could be adjusted. Ms. Nilson said that New Bedford used a 50% overlap with no major issues. Mr. Rice asked about the overlap on the south side. Mr. Melo said that since it was done randomly, the overlap there varies from 0- over 60%. He said that the current from the bridge requires no overlap in that area. Mr. Barry Walker said that since the gear has different chains, will it make a difference when it is moved.

Mr. Race said that there are chain regulations, which will have to be followed; the boat size and site depth dictates the needed chain. Mr. Melo said that almost all north moorings are set to the standard 10' depth per regulation.

Mr. Hannon closed the re-grid discussion and the WMC will take it under advisement.

Rogers Street Regulations. Mr. Hannon said that this hearing was also advertised in the same ad as the re-grid. Mr. Hannon said that the regulations adopted in September 2010 would need to be changed. The present regulations are for a yearly fee of \$35.00 or a daily fee of \$5.00. The new proposed regulation will be for only a daily fee. Mr. Roger Race proposed to have the daily fee changed to \$10.00 a day and \$20.00 for a double space to help support the upkeep of the area. Mr. Jim Tripp asked about a seasonal pass. Mr. Hannon said that this change would only be for Rogers Street ramp; the purpose of this change is to help with the expenses of keeping this area open. Mr. Melo said that there are 28+ spaces in this area that need to be maintained. Mr. Melo said that the boat ramp would not be built anytime in the near future. Mr. Walker asked if a person has a season pass for the Appongansett landing can it be used here. Mr. Hannon said that under the current regulation it can be, but they would like to change it. Mr. Joe Souza asked about the ramp. Mr. Melo said that it is not officially a boat ramp, and no funding exists to build one. He said that the first goal for this area was to cap the polluted brown-field for the Town, and in return the Town would support ramp construction at the end of Rogers Street. There are no funds or plans regarding ramp construction or end of the road repairs that could be used as a ramp. Mr. Roger Race said that CBC might have been interested in using this area. Mr. Melo said that people would use the parking lot and walk to Jones Beach if no daily fees are required. This would seriously undermine Park Department funding from Jones Park. Mr. Race said that New Bedford now has three new ramps that can be used.

It was moved and seconded to close the public hearing at 8:10 p.m. and take the matters under advisement.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira