

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

FEBRUARY 08, 2004

A meeting of the Waterways Management Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, February 08, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Gerald Hickey. The following people were present: Mr. Hickey, Robert Metcalf, Roger Race, Norman Peloquin, Robert Szala, Warren Hathaway, Roger Race and Dr. Arthur Burke. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

The minutes of the meeting of January 11, 2005 were reviewed. Page 1, fourth paragraph should read transom not transit. Sixth paragraph should be Town Counsel not Council; and second line should read mooring fees, not water fees. Mr. Peloquin moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Race seconded. So Voted.

Mr. Hickey reviewed the agenda for the evening. Mr. Hathaway moved to accept the agenda. Mr. Metcalf seconded. So Voted.

Harbormasters Report. Mr. Melo reported he has sent out the mailings to the boat owners. He said the only mailings left to go out is for the waiting list, which will be going out soon. He said that it would have cost approximately \$1,000. to have commercially sent out the mailings using a printing service such as Office Max. Mr. Melo said that the Town Collector will take in the receipts and send the information to the Harbormaster for data entry into the system.

Fiscal 2006 Budget. Mr. Melo said that he has met with Mr. Ed Iacaponi on the budget. He handed out the budget for review by the WMC. He noted the salaries were increased by 8.3% and the expenses were decreased by 6.4%. Mr. Melo said that he has budgeted a sixth assistant position mostly for coverage of the Slocum River. He also stated that repair and maintenance of the boats is the biggest part of the expenditures budget. He stated that he will meet with the Finance Committee on April 12, 2005. Mr. Melo said that the Assistants appropriation is an estimate. Julian Race and Stephanie Saikali have been coming in to help with data entry. Carol Hill has been sworn in and will be working part-time. Steve Turner and Martin Casey will hopefully be starting in April working on pump-outs. Mr. Melo said that the assistants were appointed for three years and does not have to go back before the Select Board for reappointment of existing Assistants. Mr. Metcalf asked how many he would like to hire. Mr. Melo said two or three more to give him flexibility on the hours worked. Mr. Metcalf moved to accept the budget as proposed. Mr. Race seconded. So Voted.

Mr. Melo said that in his discussions with Mr. Iacaponi it was suggested setting aside money for CIP projects by budgeting a Capital Improvement line item in future budgets. It will not be done this year, but in the future it would be a good idea to discuss an annual amount.

Blizzard of 2005. Mr. Melo said wind gusts of 80 mph were recorded at Mishawn Point. He said the only damage was the Bridge sign on the south side of the bridge, it was blown in half and will be redone by the DPW. The speed buoy was dragged across the harbor but there was no damage.

Emergency call on 02/04/05. A resident of Clarks Cove reported that a dock was loose. Mr. Melo said he went out and dragged it closer to the shore. He said it was due to ice breaking up and the wind.

Tool Purchase. Mr. Melo is looking into purchasing new tools with Michael Gagne. Mr. Gagne feels they should have tools on hand for repair jobs.

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Dartmouth Fire Department memo. Mr. Melo said that there should be some agreement between his department and the Fire Department. He is speaking with the Fire Chief of District 1 & 2. Mr. Hickey feels it is a good idea, and in the future, there should be one with the Police Department. If something big happens, they should be prepared for it. Mr. Melo said they will also be considering cross training between the departments; he feels that everyone should know both ends of this.

Dartmouth Town Report. Mr. Melo said that the report was due in February. He also enclosed copy of his Mid-Winter message on the website.

Mr. Melo met with Mr. Gagne and Ken Pacheco regarding the Bridgetenders and changing their assignments. Mr. Gagne suggested changing the name from Bridgetender to Water Front Attendant and allowing them to do more waterfront functions while on duty.

Mr. Melo also stated a magazine (Offshore) is doing an article on cruising to Padanaram Harbor for their March Issue. The editor contacted him and he confirmed information they had obtained over the years.

Old Business.

Rogers Street Property. Members of the WMC and Mr. Gagne met with the realtor. Mr. Gagne will be meeting with Town Council regarding purchasing the property. He will meet with Donald Perry, Town Planner, regarding plans for this. The WMC will also be meeting with Community Boating Center to see if there is shared interest in this property. Mr. Hathaway will contact the CBC. Mr. Hickey will check into federal funding available. Mr. Melo said they are researching having a sailing school set up in the building. Mr. Hathaway said that a possible connection between CBC and WMC would be a possible sailing school. He said that CBC works with underprivileged children in New Bedford and there are children in Dartmouth that could use it. He said that it would be good to have co-operation between WMC and CBC. Mr. Hickey said that this is a good opportunity to purchase land in this area. He said the house is big enough to have offices located there. Mr. Melo said a survey is being done and he will look into it. Mr. Michael Gagne said that the Harbor Trustees Council will be accepting proposals on this area, he will meeting with Mr. Melo and Mr. Perry to see what can be done with available funding; this funding can only be used in areas where contaminants may be. Mr. Gagne suggested putting a proposal together for a grant.

Ms. Alicia Leduc, volunteer student in preparing grant applications, was present. Ms. Leduc said that she would be willing to work with Dartmouth regarding grants. She said that there are several grants available for work in areas like this. She said that public access to water is a big requirement, and Rogers Street meets it. Mr. Hickey agreed that public access is a big requirement for grants. Mr. Metcalf said that storm drains will have to be done before the ramp could be used. Mr. Hickey said that there are two hot contaminant spots in Clarks Cove: Rogers St. and the end of William St. These areas have to be cleaned up before Shellfish can be dug there.

Mr. Gagne said that CBC would like to meet with the Town and if Mr. Melo and Hathaway could represent the WMC at meetings. Mr. Gagne said that they may be able to combine with the City of New Bedford. Mr. Hathaway said that this property directly abuts New Bedford and CBC

property. Mr. Gagne suggested having Mr. Timothy Lancaster, Recreation Director, involved in this.

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High School Sailing Programs. Mr. Hathaway said that CBC has sailing programs at New Bedford High and Voke. Dartmouth and Stang sailing is at the Yacht Club. Fairhaven will be with CBC.

Construction Projects for Spring 2005.

Floats are in need of repair. There is no electric so generators will be brought in.

Dinghy racks. They are looking to have these racks at Hill and Water Streets.

Mr. Melo would like to repair the fence around the Bridgetenders parking lot.

Pre-Disaster Grant. Mr. Melo stated he will be meeting with the grant committee. He would like to have some moorings available in times of storms or emergencies. In the meantime, it can be rented to transits. He may be able to get funding for this. Mr. Hathaway said that one of the WMC objectives is cutting down the waiting list. He feels that the open moorings should be available for the waiting list before it is considered open space.

Mr. Melo said that he had a meeting with Dave Merrill regarding the harbor to hold more boats. He would like this study to be on all moorings. This will allow better access to the harbor.

Ms. Carol Hill said that the Army Corps is asking for better locations on the Concordia moorings. She said that they will have to map their moorings. Mr. Hathaway asked if they would do a layout of the harbor. Ms. Hill said yes, this will identify problem areas, etc. and enable them to reconfigure the area better. Dr. Burke would like more information before spending money on regrading the harbor. Ms. Hill said that they have used Mr. Merrill in the past. Mr. Melo will contact Mr. Merrill to see if he is available.

Public Comment. None.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. The agenda will include contingency plans on the property at Rogers Street; dinghy racks update.

Mr. Metcalf moved to approve the Town Report as submitted by Mr. Melo. Mr. Race seconded. So Voted. It was a well done report; all in favor.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira