

## MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 29, 2005

A meeting of the Waterways Management Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, March 29, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Gerald Hickey. The following people were present: Mr. Hickey, Robert Metcalf, Roger Race, and Robert Szala. Absent were Warren Hathaway, Norman Peloquin and Dr. Arthur Burke. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

The minutes of the meeting of March 01, 2005 were reviewed. Mr. Metcalf moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Race seconded. So Voted.

Mr. Hickey reviewed the agenda for the evening. Mr. Race moved to accept the agenda. Mr. Szala seconded. So Voted.

Rogers Street Grant. Mr. Melo stated that the Grant was hand-delivered on Friday, March 25, 2005 in Gloucester, MA. Mr. Hickey reviewed the grant and it was an outstanding job done. He said that cleaning up the two hot spots would be an accomplishment. Mr. Melo said that they might seek endorsements from New Bedford City Council. Endorsements were obtained from Senator Mark Montigny and Representative John Quinn and submitted with the application.

Bridgetender Job Description. The Bridgetenders will be known as Waterfront Attendants. Mr. Melo said the Town would like to make use of the bridgetenders when the bridge is not opening. He said that they should be shared between the DPW and Waterways department. Mr. Metcalf feels some of the bridgetenders do an excellent job. Mr. Melo said that the DPW is in favor of this change. Mr. Hickey said that there is things they could do to keep busy such as: cleaning the parking lot and general area, scanning the radio, they could help cut grass and could be used in the shack at the town landing. Mr. Szala suggested checking the by-laws to see the duties of this position. Mr. Melo said that there are two sets of gates to close the bridge, he can control only one set. Mr. Szala said that the Police notify the DPW when anything concerns the bridge. Mr. Melo said that the DPW or Police call him to find out the tide schedule, but they make the final call to close or open the bridge to traffic. Mr. Race, Metcalf and Szala are all in favor of having the bridgetenders come partially under the supervision of the Harbormaster since he is on-site.

Status of Boats. Large Pump-out Angular needs a fiberglass repair, there are cracks to be repaired then it will be returned to the water. Sea-Ox Pump-out has deck leaks, would like to take out the pump on it and put the boat in storage. He is not sure if this boat will work as a pump-out vessel again. The Patrol Boat is in good condition and needs only minor repairs. The radar is old and should be updated. Mr. Hickey feels that the boats should have everything needed on it for the safety of the department. Mr. Race feels that the boats project the department.

Uniforms. Mr. Melo said that he is looking at uniforms. Mr. Melo said that he will have a dress uniform and regular uniforms for daily use. Mr. Hickey said that it should reflect the department. Mr. Melo said that Mr. Gagne informed him the Town has a credit with LL Bean that can be used by the Waterways Division.

Mooring Locations. Mr. Melo said that he is reviewing the older mooring numbers. He said that the older sites could be added to the waiting list and made available. He is checking the old sites for availability. Mr. Melo said it's a long process matching available sites with the waiting list.

Mr. Szala said that the process should be made clear to all. Mr. Melo said that some people have two boats and want two moorings.

Mailings. Mr. Melo said that everything is in the computer that has come in. Stickers have been assigned and will be mailed out. There are about 75 that have not been assigned; they will be receiving a letter informing them of what has to be done. Mr. Metcalf said that last year there was a backlog of people waiting to be inspected. Mr. Melo feels that this year will not be so bad. Mr. Melo said that the inspections are being done and it should work out fine. Mr. Melo said that if the people are doing it the right way, he will give them reasonable time to meet the deadlines.

Mooring Inspection Forms. Mr. Melo said that he has redone the report to include 30% wear as the failing/passing grade. He also added the site depth, measurements of chain and pendant. Mr. Race feels this will be a help. Mr. Hickey asked if logging this information will help move the boats around to regrid the harbor. Mr. Melo said that if someone is required to have a ½" chain, but uses a 1" chain that wears down to ¾" – how will this affect the 30% wear requirement. Mr. Race said that if a larger chain wears down, it is still stronger than the smaller chain; but the people should be encouraged to use the required chain and meet the requirements. Mr. Melo said that he would determine cases such as this on a case-by-case basis. Mr. Race feels that if a heavy chain is worn it may suggest another problem that should be looked into. Mr. Szala feels that the Harbormaster should determine these cases.

Martin Waine Request. Mr. Waine has a 41-ft., 20,000 lb. Boat that he would like to have a Helix anchor attached, which is outside the requirements of the WMC. He has also requested use of the Hazelet pennant system. Mr. Melo said that Mr. Waine would also like to have a mushroom attached to the Helix as back-up. Mr. Race feels that Mr. Waine should be allowed to try it and the WMC keep a close watch on it; he feels this is a good experiment on new technology. He suggested taking picture of this at the start of the season and at the end to see how this anchor works. Mr. Hickey would like to have Mr. Waine report back to the WMC on how it works. Mr. Metcalf moved to give Mr. Waine permission to do this. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved. Mr. Melo will try to be at the site when it is installed.

Old Business.

Dinghy Racks. Mr. Melo said that the WMC should determine how to accomplish this, he feels that it should be done in-house, building a few at a time. Mr. Metcalf also feels it could be built in-house and he would like to work on them. He said that everyone should be required to have a sticker for the dinghy and as they are installed the lowest numbers are first. Mr. Hickey said that they should determine the fee and a public hearing will have to be held. He also suggested a lottery-type drawing. Mr. Melo said that the racks will be tied down to limit movement. Mr. Melo said that the payback for the racks will be about 7 years using a \$30.00 fee.

Harbor Mooring "Mapping" Proposal. Mr. Race moved to table this until a later meeting. Mr. Szala seconded. So Moved.

New Business.

Steven Turner Letter. Mr. Melo said Mr. Turner would like a mooring moved that he purchased along Smith Neck Road during the 'free-for-all' period. It would fit a 25' boat and now he would like a 50' boat so the mooring would have to be moved. Mr. Szala suggested having Mr. Turner come in to explain what he would like to have done before the WMC. Mr. Hickey agreed he should come in.

Finance Committee Budget. Mr. Melo said that he will be going before the Finance Committee on Tuesday, April 12, 2005. Mr. Metcalf said that the WMC should go to the meeting to show support for the budget. Mr. Melo said Cheryl Abrantes will give him the updated budget and he will forward it to the WMC for review prior to the meeting. The next meeting will be April 12, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 314. The regular meeting can be adjourned to attend the Finance Committee meeting. The agenda for the next meeting will include a proposal for the dinghy racks for the meeting; waiting list update; hours of personnel work schedule; sticker update.

Mr. Hickey suggested meeting with the Select Board prior to Town Meeting. Mr. Szala feels it is important to meet with the Select Board. Mr. Metcalf said we should have an update of the grant proposal by then and have an outline of the accomplishments of the WMC.

The next two meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, April 12, 2005 and Tuesday, April 26, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira