

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

AUGUST 08, 2005

A meeting of the Waterways Management Committee was duly called and held on Monday, August 08, 2005 at 7:07 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Gerald Hickey. The following people were present: Mr. Hickey, Robert Metcalf, Roger Race, Warren Hathaway, Norman Peloquin, and Dr. Authur Burke. Absent was Mr. Robert Szala. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Hickey noted that the meetings have been on Mondays due to the Select Board Meetings but in the future meetings will return to Tuesday nights. Mr. Hickey reviewed the agenda for the evening. Mr. Race moved to accept the agenda. Mr. Metcalf seconded. So Moved.

The minutes of the meeting of July 25, 2005, regular meeting and executive session were reviewed. Mr. Race noted he was at the meeting, but his name was left out. Mr. Metcalf moved to accept the minutes for the regular session. Mr. Hathaway seconded. So Moved. In the executive session minutes it was noted that monitorium should read moratorium. Mr. Raced moved to accept the minutes of the executive session. Mr. Peloquin seconded. So Moved.

Harbormaster Report.

BBR. Mr. Melo stated that the Regratta went well with minor problems. He has received a thank you from people that attended and appreciated their presence on the water. Dr. Burke added that the CCA ran an event a few weeks ago and the Harbormasters Office did a good job and he received several compliments on the Harbormasters Office. Mr. Hickey said that he has seen the jet ski running and it does a good job. The driver can get into places where a boat can't. Mr. Melo said that it can get to the scene faster without causing a disturbance. Mr. Peloquin complimented the harbormaster on a very well run Regratta.

Uniforms. Mr. Melo stated the uniforms are in. The shirts have Town of Dartmouth Waterways on the front and "Harbor Patrol" on the back in big letters. He also has a shirt without Harbor Patrol to wear at meetings.

Life Jackets. Mr. Melo said that these were purchased primarily for use on the Jet Ski. They are made to stay on the wearer. He said that they can be manually activated.

Office Patch. Mr. Melo handed out an example of the patch. They will match the color of the shirts.

Vessel Ticketing. Mr. Melo said that they are ticketing people that break the rules. They are sending a copy of the ticket with a letter to the owners. If the vessel is in the water more than 14 days without permit, they are ticketing the owner. Mr. Melo said that they have given out fewer than 100 tickets. They are keeping track of repeat offenders on the database for reference in future years.

Mr. Melo said that the landing has been very busy this year. They are working with the Park Department to help each other with the parking situations.

Old Business.

Mr. Don Watson. Mr. Watson was present at the meeting. He contacted the office after his mooring was 'removed'. Mr. Melo said that at the July 25, 2005 meeting it was voted to revoke the mooring permit. Mr. Melo notified him by a certified letter of the decision.

Mr. Watson said that the gear will be updated. He said that he has been on the water for 32 years and has had this location since 1988. He feels the harbormaster should oversee the mooring field in the harbor. He feels that his mooring was there first and any problems now would mean that the newer moorings are at fault and that the moorings are being placed closer together causing the problem. He said he has notified the harbormaster of the problems and asked that the situation is rectified and nothing was done. He said the response he received last year was that his mooring was out of spec and it should be updated, he agrees that it may be out of spec but it hasn't moved and this will not solve the problem. He has previously had a problem with the Harbormasters office because he didn't pay fees stating he didn't receive the invoice. He said that he didn't go to the Post Office to get his certified mail and that the mooring shouldn't be pulled. He didn't get the e-mails that the harbormaster sent either. He was out of the country and couldn't attend the meeting and when he got back his mooring was gone. He feels there should have been further communications from the Harbormasters Office. He feels the mooring was pulled earlier that needed to be. He then called members of the WMC and was told to come to this meeting. He feels that his call to the WMC members was a request for a hearing and the mooring shouldn't have been pulled.

Mr. Watson would like to know from the WMC when he has to update the mooring and what should be done now. Mr. Melo said that he was acting on the WMC recommendation. Mr. Peloquin said that there was an agreement between Mr. Watson and the Harbormaster. Mr. Watson wants to know how long he has to update the mooring. Mr. Melo said the mooring was last inspected in 2003 and it should be done before the 2006 inspection. He said that Mr. Watson has a 350-lb. mushroom and it was moved by the patrol boat with no problem. Mr. Melo feels that the mooring is a hazard with the topchain being too long. He said that notices were sent by mail and e-mail to Mr. Watson. He said that by moving the mooring Mr. Watson had to come to the office. Mr. Watson said that he didn't know the meeting was held on July 25th, he would have attended it. Mr. Hickey said that the harbormaster website is up-to-date. Mr. Hickey said that the length of the top chain is questionable since it allows the boat to move around and feels that if the mooring was in compliance, the complaint would be eliminated. Mr. Melo said that three boats are bumping into each other at this location, he said that the other chains are appropriate; one boat is having the problem with two other boats. Mr. Melo said that Mr. Watson has fourteen days to get the problem taken care of according to the regulations. Mr. Hickey asked Mr. Watson how much time he needs to get it taken care of. Mr. Watson said that it is alot of money, but if it has to be done he can do it now but he still feels that the Harbormaster jumped the gun by moving the mooring. Mr. Hickey feels that the Harbormaster office tried to accommodate him in this matter. He feels if his boat was in compliance there may not be an issue or the WMC would look elsewhere.

Dr. Burke asked Mr. Melo what the specific problems were with Mr. Watsons' mooring. Mr. Melo said that his mooring is a 350-lb. mushroom, which is undersized, also it has a long top chain, the bottom chain is small. He has received reports that the mooring did move. Dr. Burke said that if the mooring met all the specs there would not be a problem. Mr. Melo agreed, he cannot correct the situation accurately until all the boats concerned are up to spec. Mr. Peloquins' concern is that Mr. Watson goes through this expense and the problem may still exist. Mr. Melo said that he is trying to solve the problem by re-aligning the area. He is trying to solve the problem but it would be easier if all boats were up to spec. Mr. Watson feels that when he takes care of his problem, the Harbormasters Office will make sure there are not other problems and he is happy with that.

Mr. Peloquin said that he would like to rescind the motion of July 25, 2005 that authorized the Harbormaster to revoke the permit. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved.

Mr. Metcalf said that the WMC should reconsider the specs for a trimaran. Mr. Melo said that the Harbormaster office will be reviewing the specs this winter.

Ms. Nancy Jordan. Mr. Melo submitted a letter from Ms. Jordan requesting permission to be a permitted user on another mooring owned by Mr. Isaksen, also she requests a refund of her mooring fee. Mr. Melo forwarded a copy of the "Permitted Mooring Use" regulations for review. Mr. Melo said that a letter should be submitted from the owner stating that before permission is granted. Mr. Melo said that this is the second year that Mr. Isaksen's mooring has not had the vessel of record on it; if it is not on it next year, he will lose the mooring. Mr. Peloquin asked about the refund. Mr. Melo said that if she uses another mooring she would still have to pay waterways fees.

New Business.

None.

Mr. Hickey asked about the Rogers St. Property. Mr. Melo said that he has been cleaning the property.

Public Comment.

Mr. Waine of Salters Point asked if the WMC has made any decision on the request of Salters Point for a commercial status on a fifth mooring. Mr. Waine said that all the SPIA moorings are being used this summer. Mr. Hickey said the question is for a guest mooring and there are regulations on how this would work. Mr. Waine said that they need these moorings for safety issues. Mr. Melo said that Salters has not removed the bathtub, they need to. Mr. Hickey asked that Mr. Waine meet with Mr. Melo to resolve the issues and come to a conclusion. Mr. Melo said that he will not issue the fifth commercial mooring until the WMC approves it. Mr. Hickey suggested finishing this season and resolving the issue later. Mr. Hickey said that the Harbormaster should know about all boats in the harbor.

Another resident asked about his father-in-laws' mooring, SP23. He said he has now purchased a boat and would like this mooring transferred to his wife to put his boat on it. He has spoken with the Harbormaster. Mr. Melo said that the father in law is not listed on the mooring registration, it is now an unregistered mooring. Mr. Waine said that Mr. David Thibeault, the owner, allowed Salters Point to use the mooring until he wanted it back. Mr. Hickey said for him to bring all the paperwork to Mr. Melo and work it out. Dr. Burke said it is a closed area and should be worked out with the Harbormaster to get the mooring back.

The next meeting is schedule for September 13, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. to be held at the Rogers Street location.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira