

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 13, 2005

A meeting of the Waterways Management Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, September 13, 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, Warren Hathaway, Norman Peloquin, Chris Hemingway and Ira Perry. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Hickey welcomed the two new members of the Waterways Management Committee: Mr. Ira Perry and Chris Hemingway. He stated that they have both spent a lot of time on the water. Mr. Hickey also stated he would like to thank Mr. Robert Szala and Dr. Arthur Burke for their time spent as members of the WMC. He said that they have both spent a lot of time as members of the WMC and should be sent letters of appreciation. He read into the minutes a letter from Dr. Burke stating that he enjoyed being a member of the WMC and that it was an honor to have been a member of the WMC.

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 August 8, 2005 were reviewed. It was noted that on the first page under Life Jackets it should read that there are two types of life jackets and one is made for Jet Skis. Also, on page 2 next to last paragraph should read that the Harbormaster was authorized to **revoke** the permit not revoke. Mr. Metcalf moved to accept the minutes with the two changes. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved.

All the members of the WMC took a tour of the Rogers Street house.

Harbormaster Report.

Webcam. Mr. Melo reported that the Webcam has been installed. Mr. Melo noted that he is able to see the harbor with the Webcam. He said that some neighbors might be concerned that the Webcam can view their properties. He said that the Harbormaster Office only directs the camera toward the public waterways, and away from the yards. He said that they can now view the landing and all areas of the harbor. He said that the camera can be controlled; it can be used for security and surveillance of the harbor. Incidents can be recorded onto the computer directly as moving pictures. Mr. Melo said that the webcam is easily controlled by the mouse on his computer.

The webcam was donated by Mr. Doug Curtiss. Mr. Hickey said that the WMC has to vote to accept the webcam as a gift. He noted that the WMC should be careful accepting donations in general, make sure that items are really needed because the WMC is responsible for the upkeep of the item. The camera itself is the size of a softball installed upon a pole on the roof of the office building. Mr. Race noted that this is a good safety feature for the Town.

Mr. Metcalf moved to accept the donation of the Webcam. Mr. Hathaway seconded. So Moved. Mr. Race noted that there should be a policy on the use of the Webcam. Mr. Peloquin moved to send a letter of thanks to Mr. Doug Curtiss for the donation of the webcam. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved.

2005 Season Wrap-up. Mr. Melo stated that the boats are starting to come out of the water. He feels that it was a successful season. There was no major damage to any vessel, and no serious injuries or fatalities in Dartmouth waters. Mr. Hickey noted that there was significantly increased visibility of the Harbormasters patrolling the waters. Mr. Hemingway asked if there was a sign at the landing stating the speeds of the harbor. He noted that there are still violations of the speed limits. He said he has received calls from boaters regarding speed violations. Mr. Melo said that there have been some Ch. 90B violations issued for speeding where circumstances warranted it. Mr. Race feels that it has been a great season on the harbor.

Salters Point. Mr. Melo stated that the regriding has been completed. There are now 54 moorings in the area. Mr. Melo said that the owners there have been thanking him for a job well done. Mr. Hickey explained to the new members that it was the first area to be regridded due to the many issues in the area and safety concerns. Mr. Hickey noted that there are two Helix moorings in the area and that Salters Point residents will be getting back to them on how this type of mooring worked out.

Harbor Trustee Grant. Mr. Melo noted that there has been no news regarding the grant. They are trying to get some information on it. Mr. Race said that even in the worse case they can apply for other grants.

Budget Update. Mr. Melo included a copy of the budget in the packet. He noted that the year-to-date assistant salary totals are high but that is due to this being the busy season. There still has been less than 50% of the fiscal allocation spent on salaries; the remainder is needed for the end of the fiscal year when the seasonal assistants start again in May. The salaries left should be OK. The expenses portion of the budget is OK. He feels that the budget is currently in good shape. Mr. Hickey feels that they are working well within the budget.

Mr. Melo said that the dingy racks will be build within the budget as time and weather allow. Mr. Melo said that the Rogers Street house needs some landscaping and he will be looking into having someone maintain the site properly. Mr. Hickey suggested running this by Mr. Michael Gagne to see how it will work out and the liability issues to the Town. Mr. Race moved to proceed with the landscaping depending on what Mr. Gagne recommends. Mr. Hickey seconded. So Moved.

Coast Guard Boat. Mr. Melo said that there are pictures of the vessel. He stated that the Police Department has no interest in manning the boat, but they would like to have it available for emergency cases on the water. He said that the Police Dept. is applying to get federal money for 2 engines for the boat. Mr. Melo said that this boat will be a very valuable vessel on the water and can get to alot of places quickly and safely. Mr. Melo reported that he is working on a memorandum of agreement with the Fire Department and Police Department on the joint use of equipment. Mr. Hathaway asked if there was an estimate to fix the boat. Mr. Melo said no but he is looking at \$13,000-\$15,000 for one engine and electronics. He said this is preliminary and depends on if the Police Department can get a grant. Mr. Hathaway feels that they should look into getting estimates on repair work. Mr. Melo said that he has some estimates. Mr. Hickey feels that it should be restored. Mr. Peloquin feels the cost is not outrageous. So it was moved and seconded to proceed with getting estimates on repairing the boat.

Harbormaster Association Meeting. Mr. Melo reported that this meeting will be held on September 26, 2005 in Vineyard Haven. He will be attending this meeting. He said these meetings can be valuable in locating surplus material, and making beneficial contacts.

Letter of Apology from Mr. Dan Oliveira. Mr. Melo stated he has received a letter of apology from Mr. Oliveira. Mr. Melo said that he is fine with the situation, and that Mr. Oliveira presented it in person. He also shared a copy with the Collector's Office.

Park Department. Mr. Melo has received a letter of thanks from the Park Department for the Waterways Dept. help with the annual Triathlon. He also read a letter of thanks from the Superintendent for helping with the summer concerts held by the Park Department concerning the shared parking accommodations.

Mr. Melo also showed the WMC an "Angel Swim" plaque received. This was for help with a swim for cancer research. The Assistant Harbormasters helped the swimmer, Mr. Brooks along the coast of Dartmouth on his way from the Westport border to New Bedford.

Old Business.

Waterways Goals. Mr. Hickey showed the WMC a copy of a list of goals put together by Mr. Melo. The list was separated into long range and short-term goals. He said that in a few years the Rogers Street area will be a big benefit, turning an eyesore area into a usable space. The dingy racks will be a good thing in the future. One of the short-range plans is for dingy storage and access to the harbor; steps have been taken in this area and progress is being made. Mr. Melo stated that about 55 people have come off the waiting list in the past year. Mr. Melo said that no new mooring sites have gone in on the south side of the bridge. There have been only a few new sites on the north side. He said that he is not interested in assigning new mooring sites in the Harbor until a Harbor re-alignment or regrid is done.

Mr. Hickey stated that a major regrid of the harbor would make room for many new moorings. Mr. Melo stated that when moorings are currently inspected, any needed placement adjustments are being made. He is trying to establish some form of a pattern to get a jump on a regrid of the harbor. Another goal has been keeping powerboats and sailboats on appropriate sides of the harbor with an eye toward decreasing the need for daily bridge openings

Mr. Hickey said that they are also working on floats for the dingys. He said that people with moorings do not have any spot to keep their dingys. He said they would like an area for the dingys. He said that another issue is the parking situations.

Mr. Hickey said that they are hoping to work with the DPW on the plans for repair of the causeway and rebuilding the Gulf Road Bridge. Mr. Melo said that work on the smaller bridge will hopefully wait until after the hurricane season to keep access to the high ground open for boat hauling.

Another goal is establishing Town-operated transient moorings. Mr. Melo said that he receives calls from many visiting boaters who would like to come ashore for shopping, etc. These transients need a short-term mooring in the area of the Village, and eventually overnight mooring accommodations. Mr. Hickey asked how many transit moorings would be needed. Mr. Melo said that twelve would be optimal, six would be fine, and even two would be a good start.

The Town dock needs some work for upkeep, and possibly enhancements for increased services. A fishing pier built perpendicular to the southeastern end of the bridge causeway would provide more public waterways access and allow elimination of fishing from the bridge pedestrian sidewalk

Salters Point Improvement Assoc. Moorings. Mr. Hathaway moved to table this discussion again until the next meeting. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved.

New Business.

Mr. Robert Sylvia. Mr. Sylvia would like a hearing on three tickets he has received. Mr. Peloquin stated he feels that the ticket appeal should be referred to Mr. Michael Gagne and moved that this be done. It was the unanimous sentiment of the Commission that they lack authority to hear the appeals of non-criminal or by-law violations. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved.

Mr. Russell Leite. Mr. Leite would like a hearing with the WMC regarding his unregistered mooring. This mooring has never been registered since it was apparently installed in the early 1990's and Mr. has never paid a fee related to this mooring. Mr. Melo also said this mooring has not been used for any properly registered vessel according to Waterways Use fee information. Mr. Peloquin said that Mr. Leite is still entitled to a hearing, and Mr. Hickey suggested the next meeting. Mr. Melo will invite him to come in for a hearing at the next scheduled WWMC meeting in October.

Nomination of Officers for Fiscal Year 2006.

Chairman. Mr. Hathaway nominated Mr. Norman Peloquin for Chairman. Mr. Hemingway seconded. So Moved.

Vice Chairman. Mr. Peloquin nominated Mr. Roger Race for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Hathaway seconded. So Moved.

Secretary. Mr. Hickey stated that Mr. Bob Metcalf has been secretary for the past year and he has worked quite well with Mr. Melo. Mr. Hemingway nominated Mr. Metcalf for another year as Secretary. Mr. Hathaway seconded. So Moved. Mr. Hickey said that Mr. Metcalf has alot of history with the previous Waterway Commission, as well as numerous other Boards in Town, and he is a large asset to the WMC.

Mr. Hickey turned the meeting over to Mr. Peloquin.

Mr. Hickey proposed to write a letter to Robert Szala and Arthur Burke thanking them for their two years of service as members of the WMC. Mr. Metcalf moved to send the letter. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved.

Mr. Don White, a Bay View resident, was present at the meeting. He complimented the WMC on a job well done. He noted that he still sees some 04 stickers on the boats in the water. Mr. Melo stated that among other minor refinements to current regulations, he would be proposing some penalty for failure to properly display a current year use fee decal on a vessel. Without a current decal displayed, Assistants take longer to check for non-compliant vessels while issuing non-payment by-law violations. Vessels which pay, but fail to display their decals also incorrectly create a false appearance of wide-spread disregard for Waterways regulations.

Mr. Hathaway said he would like the minutes to note what a fine job the past Chairman, Mr. Hickey, has done this past year. The WMC has accomplished alot this year under his guidance.

Next Meeting:

The October meeting of the Waterways Management Commission is scheduled for 1900 hrs. on 11 October, 2005 at the 12 Rogers Street, Dartmouth Waterways Administrative Office.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira