

## MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 11 2005

A meeting of the Waterways Management Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Norman Peloquin. The following people were present: Mr. Peloquin, Robert Metcalf, Roger Race, Warren Hathaway, Gerry Hickey, Chris Hemingway and Ira Perry. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Peloquin reviewed the agenda for the evening. Mr. Hickey moved to accept the agenda. Mr. Hathaway seconded. So Moved.

The minutes of the meeting of September 13, 2005 were reviewed. It was noted that on the second page, fifth paragraph it should read **built** within the budget – not build. Mr. Hathaway moved to accept the minutes with the change. Mr. Metcalf seconded. So Moved.

### Harbormaster Report.

Budget. Mr. Melo said that Mr. Race requested a copy of the budget which he reviewed the Commission. He said that everyone who has a mooring has paid their fees. He reviewed the salaries stating that they seem high but noted that this covers the summer, which is the busy season and will level out during the winter months. He stated that there should be enough to continue during the spring and bring the assistants in with more hours during May and June. He said that Stephanie Saikali and Julian Race would work during the winter months when they are available and needed; he will bring some assistants in during January and February to help with the billing. Mr. Hickey asked if the clerical work could be done outside the assistants at a cheaper rate. Mr. Melo said he can only hire assistant harbormasters, but they can do different assignments as needed. Mr. Hemingway suggested a temporary service. Mr. Melo said he is looking at clerical help when the Rogers Street house opens. Mr. Metcalf suggested senior citizens who work for the Town in return for credit on their taxes. Mr. Hickey suggested using the High School intern program; he will look into this. Mr. Melo said clerical help would be useful. Mr. Hickey will talk with Mr. Gagne regarding clerical help – sharing it with another department at Town Hall.

Mr. Hemingway asked what other towns do regarding clerical help. Mr. Melo said all towns are different. He feels that clerical help for 20 hours a week would be a good starting point. Mr. Peloquin said that the Harbormaster presence on the water was good this season. Mr. Melo said a lot of people have trouble controlling boat speed. Mr. Hathaway said there is a lot of abuse of the ‘no wake’ rule. He said that notice should be sent out with the informational packet in the spring. Mr. Peloquin said people complain about the time to get from the landing to the breakwater. Mr. Perry said the exposure of the Harbormaster on the water should help with the speeding. Mr. Metcalf feels that the Rogers Street landing will help detour some traffic from the Apponagansett Landing, also getting to the open water will be faster.

Mr. Melo said during the busy season an Assistant Harbormaster is on duty until midnight. He said the two veteran assistants are out daily from 8a.m. to noon, and they see what is going on. He stated the theft on boats was low this summer, but unfortunately breaks picked up during the last few weeks – only a few small items and alcohol were taken making it seem more like kid activity.

New Patrol Boat. Mr. Melo said he has received estimates on the repairs. Silver Ships of Alabama, who built the boat, sent in a quotation on getting the boat back in new shape. He said their quote for \$43,494.00 was for everything but acquisition of two new motors. He said grant money applied for, if awarded, will be applied to the rehab of this boat.

Mr. Melo feels that some repairs could instead be done locally. He said that Town Meeting has approved \$30,000. for use in repairing the boat. He feels there is no need for a show boat, just a good useable boat. He was looking into the possibility of getting federal surplus engines. Mr. Hickey feels it should be done right the first time, he is concerned that used engine repairs at a later date would be more expensive. Mr. Hathaway feels that the motor and steering equipment should be new.

Mr. Metcalf asked about the nearby shipyards. Mr. Melo will be looking in them. He is waiting to get the status of the grant.

#### Old Business.

Webcam. Mr. Peloquin said to research to see if the Town has any policies on the use of Webcams. Mr. Hickey said he checked into it and you are only obligated to notify the public with stickers stating that security cameras are in use. Mr. Hathaway said there should be operational parameters in writing by the department for use of the webcam. Mr. Race agreed. Mr. Hickey will look into it and report back to the commission.

Signage at the Public Landing. Mr. Peloquin said it is important. Mr. Melo said he would like signs to be put up on the bridge and at the breakwater – welcoming boaters and stating the rules, speed, etc. with the Harbormaster channel posted on it. Mr. Peloquin suggested going to New Bedford Voke to get one designed.

Mr. Perry said it should be made to withstand the weather. Mr. Perry will look into getting it done at Voke. Mr. Melo will look into getting smaller signs done at the DPW. He will also look into getting permission to put signs at the breakwater.

Dingy Racks. Mr. Melo said they would be working on these over the winter months. He said if it doesn't get done he would look into hiring someone in the spring to do them. Mr. Race said it maybe better to have someone else do it now. Mr. Melo said his only other big job is working on the boat.

Mr. Melo feels his boats are lacking in modern radar equipment. After the large orange patrol boat is done, he will look into updating the electronics on the existing patrol boat. He would like all the boats to have the same type of equipment for ease and familiarity in use. Mr. Peloquin asked Mr. Melo to put a 'wish list' together.

Russell Leite. Mr. Leite was not present at the meeting.

Letters of Appreciation. Mr. Peloquin handed out copies of the letters to be sent to Dr. Arthur Burke and Mr. Robert Szala. The WMC approved the letter and Mr. Peloquin will be mailing them out.

#### New Business.

Ad Hoc Membership. Mr. Peloquin would like to offer Ad Hoc memberships to former members so they could still participate. Mr. Hickey said a lot of energy and time is put into the WMC and he hates to see their expertise leave. He would like to see a policy that former members be invited to stay on the commission as Ad Hoc members if they so desire. He said the 'inner circle' would be the WMC members who do all the voting and the 'outer circle' would be the Ad Hoc members who can add advise but cannot vote. He would like to propose a policy where former members of the WMC would remain on as 'Ad Hoc WMC members' if the so choose but they would be required to attend certain number of meetings.

Mr. Hickey moved to 1) make a policy to offer former members an opportunity to remain on the commission as 'Ad Hoc' members and 2) there should be a commitment that they would attend a number of meetings. Mr. Metcalf seconded. Unanimously voted.

Mr. Hathaway suggested that this motion be for the concept of this and he thinks this would be a good idea making the former members expertise available to the present WMC. Mr. Hemingway said he cannot see anything negative about it; you would still have their expertise available but he feels they would have to make a commitment to the WMC.

Public Gratuities. Mr. Peloquin said this topic will be tabled to a later meeting.

Enterprise Funds. Mr. Hathaway said he would like to look into the issue of the Town using enterprise funds to pay for what was done in the past. Mr. Melo said the Waterways Enterprise doesn't have the amount of funds the Town is looking into.

Public Comment.

Mr. Don White of Beach Avenue was present. He sees alot in the harbor and has seen some vessels without stickers on them. He said he received telephone numbers with his packet and thinks it is valuable to report any problems he may see such as runaway boats near his home. He said he has called and got the recording. Mr. Peloquin explained that it was the summer message when assistants were in the office – they will be going back to the traditional message with the emergency phone numbers on it.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. at the Rogers Street location.

Mr. Hickey moved to fill the tank at the house with oil and set it low; when there is a meeting the temperature will be raised that day. Mr. Race seconded. So moved.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Vieira