

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

NOVEMBER 30, 2004

A meeting of the Waterways Management Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, November 30, 2004 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, Robert Szala, Norman Peloquin and Dr. Arthur Burke. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

The minutes of the meeting of November 16, 2004 were reviewed. Dr. Burke recommended that Mr. Buell Hollister's credentials be added to the minutes. He was Chairman of the Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries and, through his career, worked with Master plans and grants in various Towns. Subsequent to his retirement he worked closely with DEP, etc. Mr. Hickey recommended that at the first mention of Mr. Hollister, it should be noted that he is the guest speaker prior to him being identified in the next paragraph. Mr. Hathaway suggested that at the top of page three where it mentions Mr. Hathaway, it should read that Mr. Hathaway fears that buyers will obtain multiple dwellings, in other words, buy up two homes and put one large one in its place. He doesn't want to say anything about condominiums. A motion was made by Dr. Burke and seconded by Mr. Race to accept the minutes with the corrections. It was unanimously voted.

Mr. Hickey reviewed the documents from the Harbormaster along with the agenda. Mr. Melo stated that he had posted his year-end message on the web page and had enclosed a copy to the Committee members. Also enclosed is the photo that also will be posted on the web site. It was noted that the Harbormaster had asked each member for the top five projects/goals and had reduced them to writing.

Mr. Melo noted that it might be beneficial to note on the web that the WMC is seeking input and comments on the wish list. He again mentioned the 2005 forms, he noted that it was voted to have a \$25.00 late fee for mooring registration (30 days). The late fee for waterways use is 20 %, there were no changes to that. The late fees will be noted in bold on the forms. He said he spoke with Mr. Joe Hannon, Town Counsel, and the late fee can be changed, but cannot be raised. He said in December the large pump out boat will be removed from the water. The floats at the landing will be removed and stored in the parking lots so repairs may be done.

Mr. Melo passed out copies of Chapter 91. He noted that it states that 'no mooring fees may discriminate on the basis of residence'. He said that Dartmouth doesn't have different mooring fees. He would like to run it by Town Counsel to be sure we are OK, and he is interpreting it correctly.

Mr. Hickey said that it may be beneficial for Mr. Melo to start looking at the personnel issue for next year, get the Assistant Harbormasters lined up to be able to start the projects, etc. early in the season. Mr. Melo said that he would like to identify people and positions, he will check with each of last year's assistant to see if they will return. He said the returning assistants were appointed for three-year terms and they do not have to go before the Select Board if they return. Mr. Hickey said that they would have to determine the hours of the Harbormaster for the coming season. He said one option could be to have the Harbormaster and Shellfish Officer cover for each other. Mr. Melo said that during a meeting with Mr. Gagne and the Shellfish Officer, it was determined that they would cover for each other when one is out of the office, he feels that they

are working together well. The cooperation between them is fine. Mr. Hathaway noted that this is the cooperation that the WMC was looking for. It was suggested that the Harbormaster be sworn in as Shellfish Constable. This could benefit the Town in the future. Dr. Burke said that the schedule should be in place at the start of the season. Mr. Melo said that the Bridgetenders work once/twice an hour and make the same rate of pay as an Assistant Harbormaster, there is no direct supervision of the Bridgetenders and it was suggested by Mr. Gagne that they should be under the Harbormaster. Mr. Hathaway said that it would be beneficial.

Dr. Burke asked about the \$50,000. that was allocated for dock repair. He said it was received from the State. Mr. Melo said that the ramp was \$50,000. from the state. He asked Mr. Melo to check into this money from the State.

Mr. Hickey then spoke on the wish lists. The WMC reviewed the various lists. Mr. Hickey said that they would like to review the lists. Dr. Burke suggested listing the ones that can be done short term and long term separately. Mr. Szala suggested taking care of what we have now first. It was agreed to have short and long term lists. Short range was determined what could be done in one season.

Mr. Melo noted that dredging the Harbor was the #1 item. Rogers Street was on six lists. Dr. Burke feels that access to the harbor is the largest item.

The following were determined as short-term items. **Public Access** to the harbor. Mr. Hathaway feels that a lot will be determined by the access to the harbor. Mr. Szala agreed. Dr. Burke feels that re-gridding is important but will not be done this year; he feels we should work with the harbor as it is now. The **dingy storage area** is important. It was suggested that the WMC should work with the DPW so everyone will be going in the same direction. Mr. Hickey said he would talk with Mr. Dave Hickox of the DPW on the **causeway** to get our input and involvement early in the design stages. Mr. Melo said that he was informed by Michael O'Reilly of Conservation that the DPW has substantial causeway work on their "radar screen" already. Mr. Hathaway said we should determine **how we would like the harbor to look**, such as where the sailboats should primarily be moored. He said that the bridge is getting older, and suffers from wear with each opening. Assigning moorings with this consideration could prolong the bridge's useful life. The **fishing issue** and **birds at the Water Street landing** are other issues. This area is "**the face**" of Dartmouth to many visitors, and should be cleaned-up in general. **Parking** is another issue both at the landing and Bridgetenders parking lots. **Alternative Parking options** should be explored. The feasibility of "**private**" **launch service** to expand water access should be explored. Establishment of a delineated "**recreation area**" in the traditional waterski area north and west of Apponagansett Point would be beneficial.

The following were determined as long term items. **Dredging and Regriding** the harbor are the two top items. **Open the causeway** is third. **Rogers Street and a Clarks Cove launch ramp** would be on the list. **Transient Moorings** need to be located strategically in the Harbor. Placement and construction of a multi-purpose **Municipal Harbor Building** should be on this list. Further ahead in the long term goals should be access to, and management of the Slocum River (Gaffney Road and Russells Mills landing). Construction of a **fishing pier**, hopefully with state Public Access funding, would solve many competing interests in the current bridge sidewalk use. Mr. Melo said that Rogers Street could have a temporary ramp. Mr. Hathaway said that Rogers Street should have a ramp and parking area. He said that it has to be determined what the

use of the area will be. Mr. Metcalf feels there may be a problem if we build on that land. Mr. Hathaway said to see what CBC has done with that area, and there should be good communication with CBC regarding that area. Mr. Hickey said that there should be input on what people would like done with that area. Mr. Hathaway said that we should explore that area with outside ideas since it is a one-shot deal and there is a lot of potential for that area's use. He said CBC is a non-profit, trustworthy organization that has done a lot for the boating areas. He said that there is a lot of knowledge in that organization, they do a lot of work with underprivileged kids and have a lot of programs including programs in the Rogers Street area. Mr. Hickey asked if they might be interested in doing joint projects with us in that area. Mr. Hathaway feels that this is an important area for the Town. Mr. Hickey suggested looking into federal (Brownfields grants) help for this area since it may be considered a contaminated area.

Mr. Melo said he would like to have speed zones set up on the Slocum River by next season.

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The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 11, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira