

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

JANUARY 11, 2004

A meeting of the Waterways Management Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, January 11, 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, Norman Peloquin, Robert Szala, and Roger Race. Absent were Mr. Warren Hathaway and Dr. Arthur Burke. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster and Julian Race, Asst. Harbormaster.

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

The minutes of the meeting of November 30, 2004 were reviewed. Mr. Metcalf moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Race seconded. So Voted.

Harbormaster Report. Mr. Melo stated that the large pump out boat has been hauled and stored at the Chase Road Water Treatment Plant. He stated the boat is drying out and there was damage to the transit, which he will repair. The docks have been hauled out in-house and are stored on dollies to be repaired as soon as weather permits – one dock may have been in the water about 14 years.

Mr. Melo next referred to the survey work that was done at the Apponagansett Landing. He said the Public Access Board performed the work on Tuesday, January 4, 2005. He stated Raymond & Handy did the preliminary site work. The engineering bids were opened and awarded to Fay, Spofford & Thorndike. He said the preliminary plans should be done by the start of summer. Mr. Melo said it would be a two to three year project. Mr. Hickey asked about the \$50,000. received from the State. Mr. Michael Gagne, Executive Secretary, said it would be used for this project.

Mr. Melo then spoke on Chapter 91. He said he has submitted it to Town Council for review. His packet included a memorandum from Atty. Hannon. He said that the water fees are the same for residents and non-residents. He said the waterways use fee changes for residents and non-residents. He feels the Town in compliance with the non-discriminatory compliance, and that the charges are separate and distinct. He suggested the WMC take a vote to maintain the present fee schedule. Mr. Metcalf moved to maintain it. Mr. Peloquin feels that a vote is not needed. Mr. Melo said that the Standard Times would be doing an article on the waterway fees. Mr. Gagne said that we have a straight mooring fee and the waterway fee is different due to the fact that residents provide for the care and maintenance of the bridge and police, and non-residents do not. Mr. Melo said he has been receiving questions on the fee schedule. Mr. Hickey said to answer as it comes up. Mr. Melo feels the moorings are a 60/40 ratio, residents vs. non-residents.

Mr. Melo said he will be doing an update on the web site regarding bills and he will note we are maintaining our fee schedule.

Mailing Schedule. Mr. Melo said Form A states that if the vessel is not registered by July 1st a \$50.00 late fee will be assessed. Mr. Metcalf asked what happens if the boat is not in the water by that date. Mr. Melo said that they have 14 days after it is in the water to pay. Mr. Melo said it will be ticketed if it is in the water 14 days and the fee isn't paid. Form B has a deadline of

March 31st. It will be mailed by February 1st allowing 60 days to pay. Any not paid by March 31st will be deemed late and assessed a \$25.00 late fee. If it is not received by April 30th, the Harbormaster can revoke the mooring permit. Mr. Melo stated there is a \$15.00 annual wait list fee, which should be paid by March 31st.

Mr. Melo asked what color the decals should be this year. Mr. Melo suggested yellow, red, blue or green. Mr. Metcalf and Race suggested blue. Mr. Hickey said they should change colors. Mr. Melo will find out what is available.

Old Business. Mr. Hickey said that he spoke with Mr. Gagne regarding the projects in the waterways area. Mr. Gagne said that the Padanaram Bridge Causeway appropriations could not be used until the Little River Bridge was finished per MA Highway. He said that Little River Bridge was completed in October and the MA Highway is calculating what is left that can be used for the causeway, he said that it is the flat area of the causeway that will be considered. He said that it was built with granite stones and when water gets into the causeway it loosens the stones, requiring major work. He said that the guardrails are deteriorating. The sidewalk is narrow and a safety hazard. He said the original bridge was built on piling sections. He said that they will be trying to get federal flood help. He would also like to improve the Smith Neck Road area. Mr. Metcalf said that the sidewalk is not level, also it may help to straighten the bridge. Mr. Gagne suggested to get ideas together and speak with Mr. David Hickox, there is an opportunity to do a good job. Mr. Gagne said that the surveyors have been working on the bridge and the landing. Mr. Metcalf said that a sidewalk along Smith Neck Road would help the safety issue. He said a problem is that the road goes right to the beach side and the swamp side. Mr. Gagne will speak with Mr. Hickox on this matter.

Long & Short Term Goals. Long range goals: dredge and regrid the harbor, Rogers Street area, Harbor municipal building, dingy racks, Slocum and Gaffney areas, a fishing pier. Short range are dingy storage, access to the harbor, floats for dingys, increase parking area, decrease the waiting list; relocation of mooring for sailboats and power boats, clean-up of beach area. Mr. Metcalf suggested these projects could be done in phases. Mr. Melo said he will have plans for the dingy racks for the next meeting.

Clarks Cove Landing. Mr. Hickey said that there is a piece of real estate near the landing for sale. Mr. Melo enclosed copies of the real estate information on the property. Mr. Julian Race presented a slide presentation on this property. Mr. Melo and Race have both viewed the property. Mr. Hickey would like to determine tonight if the WMC would like to proceed with the purchase of the property and what they could use the property for. Mr. Gagne said that it should be ready to be presented at the Annual Town Meeting in June.

Mr. Gagne said that the drain area supports Dartmouth Street from the Post Office and Rogers Street. Mr. Hickey said that it cannot be a shellfish area until the area is cleaned. Mr. Gagne said that the parcel near this has been cleaned up. He said that the land behind is town owned and was a parking lot area. If the vegetation is removed, this area will provide excellent parking. He said that the Town owns about 1-3/4 acres in that area, this property would be a beneficial area to own. He said that maybe the WMC could work with the CBC in acquiring this parcel. He said that the CBC has contacted him and they would like to meet with the WMC and Mr. Melo regarding combined efforts for this area. Mr. Gagne said there is not many opportunities to buy property in this area. He would like to know if the WMC would like to pursue this further. Mr.

Gagne said maybe this location could be used for summer programs with the recreation department. Mr. Hickey feels the building could be used for offices. Mr. Metcalf feels this area should be capped and put in a ramp, it was cleared once but is now overgrown. Mr. Gagne said that the area doesn't have to be capped and could be used for parking now if cleared. Mr. Metcalf asked if this could be in conjunction with the State. Mr. Szala moved to go forward with this and put a package together. Mr. Peloquin seconded. So moved. Mr. Gagne will speak with the realtor.

Mr. Seth Garfield. Mr. Hickey introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Seth Garfield, a Dartmouth and Cuttyhunk resident. He is a Cuttyhunk Harbor Committee Member, Fire Chief and Finance Committee Member. Mr. Garfield said that Cuttyhunk works closely with Dartmouth, using the harbor to bring in emergencies, etc. He said that during World War II Cuttyhunk was run by the Army. He said that they dredged a channel with federal money. He said that when the Army left, private residents used the mooring area. In 1983, they started a plan for the harbor, by 1987 they had 46 town owned moorings in the harbor. It is a "Federal Harbor Refuge" so 30% had to be left open to the public. They were charging by the night to use a mooring. He has been on the committee since it started. They have seasonal and temporary mooring categories, they have a dredged basin with the 46 town moorings and also 11 private moorings that are grandfathered. These cannot be sold or rented they only have the use of them. Along with these moorings, they have 100 other town moorings. They do not charge for the town moorings. He said that they bring in about \$120,000. yearly from revenues. About \$30,000. of this money goes into an operating budget for the harbor committee; \$60,000. goes into the operating budget of the Town; and \$30,000. goes into a special project fund under their jurisdiction.

Mr. Garfield said that approximately 32,000 boats that visit each year. They have a large transit area. He said that Cuttyhunk owns the moorings and also the town piers that are all revenue producing for the Town. They have three docks that allow dingys to come to be able to service the boats. They now control the Coast Guard boathouse. They are trying to put in more restrooms, but have solid waste issues. The Selectmen regulate the marina with the Harbormaster, but they also have the 7-member Harbor Committee that all work together with the Finance Committee. They are contemplating setting up a mooring fee, and also looking into other sources of revenue. There are two areas: Cuttyhunk Pond and the outer Cuttyhunk Harbor. He said in Cuttyhunk Harbor there are two private mooring fields, and they are looking into implementing a mooring fee in this area. They have parking and boating issues. They are now in the process of repairing the area. He said that the working relationship between Cuttyhunk and Dartmouth is working fine.

Mr. Garfield said that the pilings are privately held in the non-dredged portion of the harbor. He said that there are only 5 people on the waiting list. There is no seaplane traffic now. Mr. Garfield said that the Coalition for Buzzards Bay helps out and they offer pump out service in the harbor, Dartmouth is the recipient of their waste once a week. Te works with Mr. Joe Vieira of the Police Dept. regarding parking for people going to Cuttyhunk. The WMC thanked Mr. Garfield for taking the time to talk with them.

New Business. None.

Public Comment. Mr. Marshall Gomes of Pioneer Mooring, he has just taken it over.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 25, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. The agenda will include finalization of the bills, stickers, design and construction of the racks, personnel starting dates. Also have a follow-up on Rogers Street, Mr. Melo said he would like to level the area in the spring and then they can see what is there. Mr. Metcalf said the second lot is gravel and could be used for parking – there should be a ramp in that area. Mr. Hickey will follow-up with Mr. Gagne before the next meeting.

Mr. Hickey asked if there should be additional Assistant Harbormasters, if needed. Mr. Melo suggested hiring them on an ‘as needed’ basis. Mr. Hickey suggested finalizing a work schedule for Mr. Melo.

Mr. Melo suggested having a session devoted to bringing people in regarding mooring inspections. He said they should establish guidelines for inspections. There are three companies that do it now. Mr. Hickey said that they should go through the Harbormaster.

Mr. Szala moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. Mr. Metcalf seconded. So Voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira