

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

REVISED  
MAY 04, 2004

A meeting of the Waterways Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, May 04, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Warren Hathaway. The following people were present: Mr. Hathaway, Gerry Hickey, Robert Metcalf, Robert Szala, and Dr. Arthur Burke. Absent were Mr. Norman Peloquin and Peter Hill. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Hathaway reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on April 27, 2004. The following changes were done: Page 2, under Fine for Late Registrations, Mr. Melo said that the late fee for Mr. Dingwell would be \$200.00, with a registration fee of \$80.00, for a total charge of \$280.00; Page 3, second paragraph, should read Dr. Burke made a motion to **rescind** the issue of late fees and if paid, reimburse the person. Dr. Burke moved to accept the minutes with the changes. Mr. Szala seconded. So Moved.

Mr. Hathaway reviewed the letter of Mr. Alan Wolstenholme requesting permission for his friend, Mr. Sibley Reppert to use his mooring, letter attached. Mr. Melo explained that Mr. Wolstenholme has had this arrangement with Mr. Reppert in the past and he would like it to continue, there is no financial arrangement. The mooring has passed inspection. Mr. Wolstenholme said that he has a mooring and a slip at the Yacht Club, while he uses the slip Mr. Reppert has been using the mooring. Mr. Hickey explained that the policy has changed and the boat of record should be on the mooring. Mr. Hickey said that a guest could stay for a period with the Harbormaster's permission. Dr. Burke said that #11 of the rules and regulations says the permittee, if not using the mooring for awhile, should notify the Harbormaster and someone on the temporary list could use it; if Mr. Reppert was on that list, he could use it. Mr. Hathaway said the temporary list is difficult, not to make it seem like a rental list. He said it is important to stick to the boat of record on the mooring. Mr. Melo said that the owner of the mooring would have to get some type of compensation to cover his cost, but it can't be a rental fee. Dr. Burke said that it could be worked out for the Town to receive some compensation and it wouldn't be considered a rental. Mr. Hickey said that Yacht Club can deal with transit mooring because they have the capabilities to do it, the Town doesn't. He said it could be available for a night or short term.

Dr. Burke made a motion to reject the letter as written because it would have to go on the temporary waiting list and it isn't what the owner wants. Mr. Metcalf seconded. So Moved.

Mr. Wolstenholme asked if the New Bedford Yacht Club could use it. The Yacht Club could use it. Mr. Wolstenholme thanked the WMC.

Mr. Melo gave the Harbormaster report. He read a letter from **Ms. Bonnie Dana** asking permission to let other members of his Club to use the mooring. He said his mooring 70-1 is maintained by Concordia and has been inspected. Mr. Hickey said the purpose of the temporary list was when someone is not using their mooring for a period of time, then it could be made available to someone else. Dr. Burke said that if someone is using a mooring elsewhere, they want the owner of that mooring to be able to use the one they own. He said that it is a good part of boating and he doesn't want to lose it. Mr. Hickey said that if a person is absent from their mooring for a period of time, the mooring would be used temporarily. Mr. Melo said that they have to determine the length of absences. Mr. Hathaway said time away is a critical factor. Mr. Hickey feels that all the rules being made, there can be exceptions by the Harbormaster, if needed. Mr. Hathaway said to make a list of the rules that could be considered for changes, such as the temporary waiting list. Dr. Burke said that the Yacht Club allows people to use the mooring because the owner in turn uses one elsewhere. Mr. Melo said that both parties could sign off that there would be no rental fees. Mr. Hickey said that the Harbormaster has control over all situations. Mr. Melo said he would determine what is best on a mooring and move boats to the best areas for its size.

Dr. Burke made a motion that Mr. Melo come to the next meeting with a recommendation on how to deal with the issue of empty moorings. Mr. Metcalf seconded. So Moved.

Salters Point Letter. Mr. Melo gave the WMC a letter for approval regarding the ownership of the Salters Point moorings. The ownership of the moorings would be given to a commercial company, and they in turn could use Salters as their agent. Dr. Burke said by doing this it is not a private rental, but a commercial rental – the commercial company would rent it to Salters for the season, then Salters would act as an agent with the people using them. Salters would not be making money. This arrangement would be made available to all commercial companies. Dr. Burke moved to accept the letter with correction. Mr. Hickey seconded. All in favor. So Moved. Mr. Hickey suggested Mr. Melo show the letter to Mr. Michael Gagne before it goes out.

Mr. Melo said most calls are from owners wondering about the waiting list. He would like to assign a number to everyone with some info on the type of mooring wanted, this way people would check the web site and find their status. Mr. Melo said that people on the waiting list can refuse two times then they go to the bottom of the list; but by putting requirements on the list, they'll only be called for suitable moorings.

Mr. Melo said he would like to look at creative ideas. He feels that by better placement, they can get more moorings in the water. Dr. Burke agreed that there is a lot that can be done. He suggested that a couple WMC members work with Mr. Melo on this and then they could report to the WMC at the meetings.

Mr. Metcalf said that Hill Street is a problem. People are building their own racks. Mr. Melo said that it is a private structure on public land and that he will be looking into it. He said that he will be clearing out the area around Hill Street. He will be working with Matt Smith, who knows biology, so that by cleaning, he will not be endangering the land abutting the water. Mr. Metcalf said there is no parking in areas like this.

Appongansett Landing. Mr. Melo said he will be moving the Clam Shack to the center island to free up parking spaces. He will try to wheel it over to save money then poles could be put around the Shack so no one will drive into it. He will be connecting the telephone lines and the Shellfish and Natural Resource Dept. could use it, putting them where the action is. Mr. Hickey mentioned the parking problem at the landing. He said that overflow parking is on West Smith Neck Road, but that angers the residents. Mr. Hickey suggested shuttling the people to the High School parking lot. Mr. Metcalf feels using West Smith Neck Road is the best solution, it is a wide street and easy to turn around with trailers and there are very few houses. Mr. Melo said that he will speak with Joe Vieira, Safety Officer on using the street. He said another option is working with the Park Department sharing use of the parking lot. When they have concerts, they could use the landing parking. Mr. Melo is looking to put more barrels in this area, asking the DPW to empty them more.

Mr. Melo said that the YMCA has requested that the Town set up a program to teach the kids about the water. Mr. Hickey feels this is a good cause.

Mr. Melo reviewed the collection of money on daily launch permits. He said that there was a system where you filled out an envelope, put the money into it, and insert it into a foolproof box. He said this system as worked in the past.

Ramps. Mr. Melo said that Mr. Gagne has tried to have the DPW repair them, but they have limited equipment that goes into saltwater. He hydraulics could be used to blast them. Mr. Metcalf asked if the Fire Department could help. Mr. Melo said they have in the past.

Old Business. Assistant Harbormasters and the Budget. Mr. Melo said that he has received an Assistant Harbormaster job description. He said the last time it was advertised in the paper in a general ad for various seasonal jobs. Mr. Hathaway asked if it stated the qualifications. Mr. Melo said it did. Mr. Hathaway asked if the job description could address specific needs. Mr. Melo said that the Harbormaster delegates, the job description is the same. Mr. Hickey asked if they will know CPR, First Aide, Defribulator, and First Response training. All the assistants will know it from in-house training.

Mr. Melo presented samples of the mooring stickers, waterway stickers and orange tags. They each have the same number on them. The boaters will received one of each – only the people with moorings will get a tag. He said that all the extra unneeded stickers/tags will be kept in a file in the harbormasters office. It was suggested to use plastic ties on the tags. The waterways sticker will go on the boat, the mooring sticker on the mooring. Mr. Melo suggested putting the orange tag on the top link of the chain in case they are separated. The sticker will stick to styroform. The stickers should be easily seen by the harbormaster enabling him to tell if the mooring and boat stickers match.

Attached is a copy of the letter sent to Mr. John Hayes approving his application his business.

New Business. Mr. Hathaway announced the resignation of Mr. Peter Hill. Mr. Hickey passed out copies of the Select Board minutes regarding appointing the WMC. The Select Board will advertise for the WMC and then the WMC will review the applications, come up with some candidates and the Select Board will appoint one.

Dr. Burke presented the Harbormaster with a plaque from the sailing vessel, Navire, for recognition for outstanding efforts for putting out the boat fire.

Mr. Hickey moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Dr. Burke seconded. So Moved.

Respectfully submitted,

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