

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 08, 2004

A meeting of the Waterways Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, May 18, 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, Norman Peloquin, Robert Szala and Dr. Arthur Burke. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Hathaway reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on May 18, 2004. The following changes were noted: Page 1, third paragraph, it should read **Mr. Montigny**; sixth paragraph, last line should read **Julian Race-Moore, also Mr. Melo said the night coverage would be by the new assistants**. Mr. Hathaway also noted that Mr. Peter Hill has resigned from the WMC. Mr. Hickey moved to accept the minutes with the changes. Mr. Peloquin Seconded. So Moved. Mr. Hickey moved to accept the revised minutes of May 18, 2004 with the change. Mr. Peloquin seconded. So Moved.

Mr. Melo gave the Harbormasters report. Mr. Melo stated he has received a request for transfer of ownership for Mr. Peter Kavanaugh of 11 Star of the Sea Drive. He is requesting a transfer from the former owner of the house. The mooring is easy access from the house. Dr. Burke moved to grant the request. Mr. Szala seconded. Mr. Hickey said this may set precedence and he would like to make sure the proper rules were followed. Mr. Kavanaugh did notify the Harbormaster of the request. Mr. Melo said that all back fees would be paid in full. All in favor of the motion.

Mr. Melo passed out a letter that he would like to send out as a welcome letter. Mr. Szala and Hathaway both noted that it is an excellent letter. Mr. Hathaway questioned the letterhead stating Waterways Management Department. Mr. Melo said that it is the Waterways Enterprise Fund, including Harbormaster Dept. and Shellfish Dept. Mr. Szala noted that Town Meeting articles referred to them as Waterways Management. Mr. Hathaway suggested leaving it as Waterways Management Department. Mr. Melo said he would be receiving two phones; one for the person on duty and one he will carry. Mr. Hathaway said that the fourth paragraph should state that the two sites would be open; the Harbormaster Office above Dockside and the new Office at the landing. The hours will be 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mr. Hickey said that it is important to have someone at the phones during the day. Mr. Melo said the package mailed would include the letter, instructions and the decals. Mr. Melo said that the Concordia moorings should have a red stripe on it.

Mr. Melo said that he is using the media. He placed an ad stating that the stickers will be mailed and he announced the web site address. Mr. Melo said he is considering putting a weekly column in the paper with announcements.

Mr. Melo said that the Select Board approved Julian Race-Moore and he has started. He will be working 40 hours until he returns to college. He also received applications from Donald Pepin of Faunce Corner Road; Stephanie Alves, but she has no waterfront background; Charlie Pires of Wareham who requires high salary; Mark Hinch of Buzzards Bay, Michael McKinnon of Dartmouth and Carol Hill who is looking for a part time 'on call' job. Mr. Szala asked about the budget. Mr. Melo said that after July 1, 2004 the budget should be fine. He said in addition to his present staff hours, the budget could accommodate more hours. Mr. Melo said that the Shellfish Dept. would be losing Isaac Perry. He said that they might be cross training the departments. Mr. Metcalf asked about the coverage. Mr. Melo said that someone will be on duty after hours, and they will be doing spot checks during the nights and early morning hours.

Mr. Metcalf asked about the fines for speeding. Mr. Melo said it is an arrestable offense. The money from the fines go to the town. Dr. Burke suggested something be set up to allow people to know when they enter the harbor and have to slow down. Mr. Melo said that buoys are expensive. He suggested putting signs on the bridge for the people going south. Mr. Metcalf suggested putting a sign on the pier stating that the harbor is a 'no wake zone'. Mr. Hathaway said that there are a lot of people near the island, and it is dangerous when the boats go fast. Mr. Melo suggested putting up signs stating 'recreational area only'.

Mr. Hickey said there is also an environmental issue regarding shellfish eggs. Mr. Metcalf said that is a problem in the Cove Rd. area. Mr. Melo said that New Bedford has an order banning jet motor crafts in the Cove area. Mr. Hathaway said the Rogers St. town landing has a lot of activity in the summer. Mr. Hickey suggested having an area that can accommodate personal watercrafts. Mr. Melo said that they have to go to the State if they want to shut an area off to motorcraft. Mr. Melo suggested using buoys to mark recreational areas.

Mr. Hathaway next stated that the WMC has been in existence for close to one year and new officers should be elected. He said that they are all talented people and duties should be shifted around. They should elect a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. Dr. Burke moved to nominate Mr. Gerald Hickey as Chairman. Mr. Szala seconded. All in favor. So Moved. Mr. Metcalf nominated Mr. Norman Peloquin for Vice-Chairman. Dr. Burke seconded. All in favor. So Moved. Mr. Metcalf asked about need of a secretary. Mr. Szala said that there should be to help the clerk with the minutes and this person could work with the Town. Mr. Szala nominated Mr. Robert Metcalf for Secretary. Mr. Hickey seconded. All in favor. So Moved.

Mr. Hathaway said that he served on a lot of Boards and this group was one of the best to work with. The WMC had difficult tasks and they have done a good job to protect the harbor. He is sorry that Mr. Hill resigned, he was an asset to the WMC. He turned the meeting over to Mr. Hickey. Mr. Hickey said that he would like to accept a motion to thank Mr. Warren Hathaway for doing a good job as chairman and that under his guidance a lot has been accomplished. Dr. Burke made the motion and he would like to put a notice in paper that Mr. Hathaway is stepping down after doing a good job and that Mr. Hickey is taking over. Mr. Szala seconded noting that Mr. Hathaway has spent countless hours working that has led to the success of the WMC. So Moved.

Mr. Hickey said that he spoke to Mr. Michael Gagne about a replacement for Mr. Peter Hill. He said that when the WMC was formed there was a group of people interested in being on it. He was under the impression that when someone stepped down, they would be replaced by another from that original list. He would like to send a letter to Mr. Gagne requesting what process to follow to fill the vacancy. Mr. Szala said that he feels they should go back to the original list to see if anyone is still interested. Mr. Hickey asked for a motion to have the Harbormaster send a letter to Mr. Gagne on this. Mr. Hathaway said that it is important that the WMC be involved in this selection and said there was an alternate selected after the original seven for the WMC. Mr. Hathaway said that for the first year everyone is the same, then they go to alternate year appointments. Mr. Peloquin feels to replace Mr. Hill they should go to the original list. Mr. Hickey would like to send a letter to the Select Board through Mr. Gagne. Mr. Hathaway moved to send a letter to the Select Board proposing a system to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Hill and go to the next person in the eighth position, then ninth, etc. to see if they are still interested. Mr. Peloquin seconded. All in favor. So Moved.

New Business. None.

Old Business. None.

Mr. Hickey suggested creating an agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Szala would like to see the harbormaster prepare a spreadsheet on how the department is doing and on the budget: how much coming in, how much going out, etc. Mr. Metcalf seconded. So Moved. There should be a surplus at the end of the year and he would like to see a fund set up for projects.

Mr. Hickey asked that everyone think how they would like to meet this summer. Mr. Metcalf asked Mr. Melo to prepare a list of long and short-term projects. Mr. Hickey said that the department should have a good vessel. Mr. Hathaway said that the enterprise fund is allowed to keep their surplus for capital improvements. Mr. Melo said the Harbormaster boat doesn't need a cabin, it would make it top heavy. It was suggested to look into uniforms, safety equipment, etc.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 28, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Melo will post it on the web site.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira