

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

AUGUST 03, 2004

A meeting of the Waterways Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, August 03, 2004 at 7:04 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Gerald Hickey. The following people were present: Mr. Hickey, Warren Hathaway, Robert Metcalf, Norman Peloquin, Robert Szala, Roger Race and Dr. Arthur Burke. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

The minutes of the meeting of June 28, 2004 were reviewed. Mr. Metcalf moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Hathaway seconded. So Voted.

Mr. Hickey introduced the newest member of the WMC, Mr. Roger Race. Mr. Melo noted he is the father of Julian Race, an Assistant Harbormaster. Mr. Race said he is pleased to be on the committee and he feels they have been doing an excellent job. He has degrees in engineering and Marine Biology. He has worked with water quality issues. Mr. Hickey would like the records to indicate that Julian Race was appointed an assistant harbormaster long before Roger Race became a member of the WMC so there is no conflict of interest.

Mr. Melo gave the Harbormaster report. Mr. Melo noted he put together a package for the members of tonight's information. He said the first issue he would like to discuss is moving moorings versus the waiting list. He would like to establish priorities – should it be people that have a mooring and would like to move to another or people on the waiting list. He said this has been coming up with people who would like to move from the north side of the bridge to the south side. Should there be a separate list showing people who need another mooring or should a waiting time be established before you can move the another mooring. Mr. Hickey said the mooring committee did discuss this. Mr. Peloquin said if we have the ability to move people, the list should be consulted. Dr. Burke said it is inappropriate for people that moved during the transition period to move mooring so soon. He said people on the harbor for awhile should be able to move; either way the waiting list will decrease. Mr. Szala feels there should be a transition period and moving should be a 'one time' thing. Mr. Melo said there should be limits and not allow moving each year. He has a list of people waiting to move. Mr. Szala said he would like to see the mooring situation resolved soon. Mr. Melo said the waiting list is on the web site.

Dr. Burke suggested a sub-committee to look at this and the final move should be the decision of Mr. Melo. Mr. Metcalf feels people not happy with their mooring should be on the waiting list for another mooring. Mr. Hathaway said people buying a larger boat should look into the mooring situation first. He said they should tell people if they would be on the north or south side of the bridge. Sailboats should not be on the north side because of the bridge. He feels there should be a specific reason for a move.

Dr. Burke motioned that someone that had a mooring for at least 5 years and based on the Harbormaster's discretion be allowed to move. Mr. Metcalf seconded. So Moved.

Mr. Melo said the next issue is a letter from Mr. James Bean. Mr. Bean would like the resurrection of a mooring. He said the fees in arrears were paid in March, 2003. It is on the north side and was reported missing in 2000 by Davis & Tripp. The hardware was not found and was not replaced until this year. Mr. Melo said there have been no inspections since 2000, the last one done was in 1997. Mr. Melo said the owner was renting another mooring. He said he did the initial denial based on the waterways regulations. Mr. Hathaway feels nothing has changed. Mr. Hathaway motioned to deny the appeal and withhold the Harbormasters decision. Mr. Metcalf seconded. So Moved.

Mr. Melo next said that Mr. Jack Shepard visited the landing and there is a \$50,000. allotment at stake. This money is for the redesign and engineering for the Appongansett ramp. He said they are also looking into a fishing pier on the south side of the bridge. Mr. Metcalf said this has been looked at over the past years. Mr. Melo said they would like to widen the causeway and have angle parking. Mr. Hickey said there is also money available to repair the north side of the ramp.

Mr. Melo next spoke of the ticket issue. He has started to ticket the boats. He said is a 40' sailboat that is abandoned, it is not registered and owned by Mr. Noel Hill. He said it should be ticketed but the Town does not want to take it.

Mr. Melo spoke on the issue of water access on Hill & Water Streets. Mr. Melo said they are clearing out the area. The stairs are on Town property, and are a safety risk. Mr. Melo said the party wall is crumbling and Mr. Barker, a neighbor, has offered to repair the wall when he repairs his wall, if the Town will clear out the area. The beach is town property. Mr. Metcalf feels Mr. Melo should proceed to clear out the land and let Mr. Baker fix it. Mr. Hickey would like to see plans on this area. Mr. Metcalf motioned to continue clearing the land and find out Mr. Bakers plan for the wall. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved.

Mr. Melo's next issue was the dinghy racks. He said he is looking into building racks at the foot of Hill Street and Appongansett landing. This will be done on Hill St. when the clearing is done. It will create more space for the storage of dinghies.

Mr. Melo next spoke on the traffic regulations. He said he is enforcing them. They are putting up 'no wake-5 mph' signs at the entrance to the harbor and on the bridge. Mr. Hathaway said he would like to see these signs put up as soon as possible.

Mr. Melo next stated that he is referring all shellfishing questions to Mr. Michael Gagne. Mr. Melo said that he is trying to get money from the Clean Vessel Act Grants. He has submitted the paperwork.

Mr. Melo presented a budget update. He stated approximately 950 boats have paid waterways fees. They are starting to ticket violators. He stated that the salary and expenses are under last year's budget.

Mr. Melo stated he would like to have the Select Board to appoint Ms. Carol Hill and Mr. Mike McKinnon at their next meeting. Mr. Hickey suggested that next year all the appointments be made at the start of the season.

Mr. Hickey said Julian Race would like suggestions for the web site. He said they would be purchasing a digital camera and a web cam for the department.

Next issue was a letter from Concordia. Mr. Melo said there is an overlap of Concordia moorings in the harbor. Whenever there has been any issue, Concordia has worked with the Harbormaster to solve it. He has a listing of all Concordia's moorings and there has been no problem with the moorings. Mr. Hathaway said that when problems arise, Concordia is very helpful. He said co-operation is the greatest factor. Dr. Burke said he would like to see a better letter. Mr. Peloquin said to bring it before Town Council. Mr. Hickey asked if all was in favor of the letter pending Town Council's approval. Dr. Burke would like to say that Concordia is not a navigational problem in the harbor. Mr. Peloquin suggested cutting out the third paragraph. Dr. Burke made a motion that Mr. Peloquin meet with John Bentley to draft a letter to represent the WMC feelings, have Town Council approve it to get it moving along. Mr. Szala seconded with the elimination of the third paragraph. All in favor. So Moved.

Harbormaster Storm Preparedness Plan. Mr. Melo gave a copy of the Harwich plan to the WMC. There will be some guidance for the boats. Mr. Melo stated he could help with the bridge in the early morning hours. Mr. Hickey suggested putting it on the web site to get more input. Mr. Melo said the bridge could be kept open to get the boats out quicker.

Harbormaster Goals. Mr. Hickey would like to have a master plan sub-committee to have goals ready when the funds become available, also to have an evaluation tool for the Harbormaster. He would like to have long term-goals; and goals to the end of the season. Mr. Metcalf said Arthur Dias showed him a master plan back in the 70's. Mr. Metcalf moved to form a subcommittee. Mr. Hathaway seconded. All in favor. So Moved. Dr. Burke said Mr. Melo has a list, which they could refine. Mr. Melo said he feels this could be done in-house.

Old Business. None.

New Business. Mr. Melo said one of the Select Board members inquired about his hours. He will be keeping a record of his hours in the computer.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira