

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14, 2004

A meeting of the Waterways Management Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, September 14, 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, Norman Peloquin, Roger Race and Dr. Arthur Burke. Absent were Mr. Warren Hathaway and Robert Szala. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

The minutes of the meeting of August 31, 2004 were reviewed. Mr. Metcalf said that Mr. Michael Gagne title is Executive Administrator not Executive Secretary. Mr. Race moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Metcalf seconded. So Voted.

Concordia Letter. Mr. Hickey referred to the Concordia letter for the Army Corp. of Engineers. Mr. Melo said that he met with Town Council to discuss the letter. Mr. Melo said that he posed the question from the last meeting concerning the Town's rights in the future regarding the moorings. Mr. Hannon said the Town cannot give away what is not theirs, the bottom of the harbor is not owned by the Town, only the Town's to manage. Mr. Hannon feels it shouldn't be delayed longer and has spoke with Mr. John Bentley, Concordia's attorney. Dr. Burke stated that the second page statement that if the plan fails as designed, he said it is true but negative, he suggested striking it because it has negative implications. Mr. Peloquin said it was from Mr. Bentley's draft. Mr. Melo said it could be eliminated. It was agreed to delete the sentence. Mr. Hickey suggested putting a phrase in the letter that Town Council has reviewed it. Mr. Race said it wasn't necessary because it was stated in the minutes. Dr. Burke moved to accept the letter as revised. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved. Mr. Melo said he would make the changes and present it to Town Council for final approval and mail it with copies to Town Council, WMC, Mr. Michael Gagne, Concordia, and Mr. John Bentley.

Town Ramp. Dr. Burke said that it seemed good, widening the ramps is a big help. Mr. Hickey said it should accommodate 3 boats. Mr. Race said the floating side pieces would be a help. Mr. Melo said 8 feet is the maximum width for trailers. Mr. Race asked about a time line. Mr. Melo said this is preliminary, no set time line.

Waterways Master Plan. Mr. Hickey said the ramp will not have a impact on the master plan. Mr. Melo said that they need a starting point. Mr. Hickey said that he has spoken with Mr. David Jannick, he is the area representative for Coastal Zone Management Commission. He said they spoke about Mr. Jannick coming to a meeting, Mr. Hickey feels that they should wait until the WMC has an idea where to go and then have Mr. Jannick come in to help them. Mr. Jannick showed Mr. Hickey different area plans. Mr. Jannick said they have to identify what the plans are and how they are going to use different Town groups. He said there are different plans; state approved, community and regional approved plans. The major area is the cost involved. Mr. Hickey stated that Dartmouth has several different coastal areas to be concerned with. One suggestion was also to get SERPEDD involved. Mr. Gagne suggested using the Town Planner, and also said that each Town gets hours from SERPEDD and to get the Town groups together to best use these hours. It was suggested to get a computerized GIS plan of the Dartmouth waterways, but the computer is down. Mr. Hickey said to ID all the areas of concern, get a GIS map, and decide what to do with the areas, and then put a plan together. Some plans are very expensive. Mr. Hickey stated that Mr. Jannick is familiar with some areas of Dartmouth, he is a state employee. Some maps could be done by SERPEDD or other groups at a saving.

Mr. Metcalf said that when the Town received the land at the end of Rogers St. and removed the tanks, Community Boating , a private company, wanted to help the Town build a building that could be used by both. Mr. Hickey said that some work is being done there. Mr. Metcalf said the pier will be open on the land side. Mr. Melo said this would help the water flow. Mr. Metcalf said that some the grass in that area cannot be disturbed.

Ms. Mary Ann Ferreira, Asst. Executive Administrator, handed out copies of the last Master Plan that was done in the 1950 – 1960's. Mr. Melo said that maybe some funds will be available to help, Mr. Hickey stated that Mr. Jannick said that there was very little funds available. Mr. Melo said that Edgartown hired a consultant to help them. Dr. Burke said that before getting the plan, they should set the parameters. He said that the WMC should understand the benefits that will be obtained and should understand the issues. Mr. Hickey said that they have to look to the future, what will be along the shoreline, future buildings, etc.

Mr. Metcalf asked about help from UMass. Mr. Hickey said it wasn't talked about. He said that anyone who might want to go to a future meeting with Mr. Jannick is welcome to go. Mr. Hickey said that using Rogers Street ramp could help eliminate traffic at the Town Ramp.

Mr. Hickey said if the WMC agrees he will meet again with Mr. Jannick. Mr. Hickey said to get questions together and maybe meet with SERPEDD. He said that they should have more information and plans before getting together with Mr. Jannick. He said the cost of this will be determined by how extensive they want the Master Plan to be.

September 13, 2004 Select Board Meeting. Mr. Melo asked Ms. Ferreira if the appointment of Ms. Carol Hill was approved. Ms. Ferreira said that she will be writing out the appointment slip. Mr. Melo said that he read a letter regarding his hours to the Select Board. Mr. Race and the WMC complimented Mr. Melo on a very good job done at the Select Board meeting.

Harbormaster Report. Mr. Melo said the buoys were delivered and he has put them out; they are marked Slow – No Wake. He said that this winter he will be working on signs for the bridge – Welcome signs, etc. The office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. seven days a week. He would like to know if the WMC wants to lessen the hours since the busy season is past. He would like to be available when the WMC deems necessary. Mr. Melo said that the hours available for emergencies is still 24-7. When he is not in the office there is a sign saying how he can be reached and where. Dr. Burke feels the hours are excessive. Mr. Melo suggested 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Dr. Burke feels that it will be fine, but if he has to be available at a different time he will be. Mr. Melo agreed and said that his phone numbers are always available. Mr. Race suggested 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. until Columbus Day and then revisit the issue. So agreed.

Donated Boat and Trailer. Mr. Melo said that he picked it up at the COA last week and is stored behind Davis & Tripp. He said that he will not spend much money on the boat but the trailer is new and he would like to repair it. Mr. Melo said that if the Voke students can repair the boat, it will be worth it.

Radar Direction Finder. Mr. Melo said that there was a lost boater last night, he worked with Westport Harbormaster and they rescued the boater. He said that a radar direction finder would have been very helpful. He said that Woods Hole also has one. Mr. Melo will be doing some research on the cost involved. He said it will be very valuable.

Shellfish and Natural Resources. Mr. Melo said he has been asked to fill in. He said that on September 11, 2004 he found individuals in a closed area. He is looking into the fall transplant, if the Shellfish Warden is not back, what will he be responsible for. He said it is an extensive job. Mr. Hickey said there is \$60,000. available for the transplant. Mr. Melo said it is a 2-man team job. He said a possibility is to hire an experienced man. Mr. Metcalf asked about the people shellfishing, do they have permits. Mr. Melo said he will be checking it out. He said he is doing what he can to help out the Shellfish Department.

The WMC thanked Ms. MaryAnn Ferreira for her help in getting copies of the old Master Plan for them.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 28, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Burke moved, Mr. Metcalf seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane L. Vieira