

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 12, 2004

A meeting of the Waterways Management Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, October 12, 2004 at 7:03 p.m., Room 103. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Gerald Hickey. The following people were present: Mr. Hickey, Robert Metcalf, Roger Race, Warren Hathaway and Dr. Arthur Burke. Absent were Mr. Robert Szala and Norman Peloquin. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

The minutes of the meeting of September 28, 2004 were reviewed. There were two changes: Page 2, line 3 should read **wire ties** not wire tires; 2nd to last line under Waterways Master Plan should read **Conservation Commission**. Dr. Burke moved to accept the minutes with the two changes. Mr. Hathaway seconded. So Voted.

Harbormaster Report.

Mr. Stephen Turner's appeal. Mr. Melo has forwarded the documentation to Town Council for approval. He has new information regarding a waiting list showing Mr. Turner at #32, this list is from 2003, four days after the open period. Mr. Turner states he brought it on the waiting list, but he was #32 with people above him. Dr. Burke feels this violated WMC regulations in many ways. Mr. Melo said that the WMC has to decide whether there will be a hearing on this. Mr. Melo said that Mr. Bill Rebello of Pioneer approached him after the last meeting and asked the result of the meeting. Mr. Rebello said that Mr. Turner, Jr. brought it from the waiting list. Mr. Melo said the mooring gear at the site was picked up and moved with permission to another site, Pioneer then sold the site to Mr. Turner, thus bypassing others on the waiting list. Mr. Hickey asked if the WMC would like to change the Harbormaster decision. Dr. Burke said, based on the fact that this is in opposition to WMC regulations moved that the WMC support the Harbormaster and his decision stands. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved Unanimous. Mr. Melo will send a letter with the results of this vote.

Morris vs. McCarthy. Mr. Melo states that Pioneer has lifted the mooring and he viewed it; it doesn't match the description given. Mr. Morris is aware that the spot is his. Mr. Melo suggested allowing Mr. Morris to purchase the gear from Mr. McCarthy. Dr. Burke feels that the spot is Mr. Morris and the gear and what happens is between them and not for the Harbormaster to decide.

Tripp 22 refurbished. Mr. Melo said that this boat has been refurbished. He has launched it and it works beautifully. There are many uses for it. It can be seen at the pump-out dock.

Mass. Harbormasters Assoc. Fall Meeting. Mr. Melo said he would like to attend it. He said he would like to enroll in this and the Cape & Islands Harbormaster Assoc.; both would be beneficial to the Town.

OLD BUSINESS.

Waterways Master Plan. Mr. Hathaway stated he has contacted four harbormasters and asked if they have a plan, who did it, how long it took and if they use it on a day to day basis [see attached report]. Tom Leach from Harwich, Mr. Hathaway feels they have a good running harbor. They have a yearly capital report and projects that they work from. They have an Adversary Board. There is not a long-term report, but spoke of Chatham's report which is not used on a daily basis. Next, he spoke with Charlie Bailey, Edgartowns Harbormaster. They do have an extensive management plan, which was nine years in the making, and it has been approved by the State. He will mail a copy to the WMC and tell us the attorney that helped them. He said that the major benefit is it helps Edgartown get state grants. It gives a general direction for the town. Next, he spoke with Mr. Tim Mill, Newport's Harbormaster. They had subcommittee help with it. It took seven years to complete the study. The State of Rhode Island mandated the towns have a plan. It was a huge plan and of little value. Final town was Marblehead, Mr. Bob Warner, Harbormaster. They do not have a formal plan. Mr. Metcalf stated that Marblehead is a large harbor. Dr. Burke is concerned with the time and money involved in creating a master plan. He would like

to be sure of the benefits of a master plan. Mr. Hathaway said that the people he spoke with had no idea of where Dartmouth was with a master plan.

Mr. Hickey has spoken with the Scuitate Harbormaster and the town is looking into buying a boat yard. He said they are also doing some dredging with Federal money. Mr. Melo said that Scuitate has a master plan and they hired an outside firm to do it. Mr. Hickey said he would speak with them and find out the cost. Mr. Metcalf would like to know the cost of it and how to get started. Dr. Burke moved that the WMC not move on a formal master plan but to slowly gather more information on a master plan and to develop some long term plans for the harbor. Mr. Metcalf seconded. So Moved.

Mr. Melo said they should identify the areas of concern for a master plan, such as the seven areas of Dartmouth waters, and the issues of the different areas. Then prioritize the issues. Mr. Metcalf feels that the new ramp should be in the plan. Mr. Hathaway suggested that each commission member put down questions they have regarding a master plan and then compare them and figure out the questions that need to be answered; such as town owned marine facilities and docks, etc. Mr. Hickey said that everyone should be on the same page regarding the master plan. Dr. Burke suggested they should identify the areas and what they want to do with the areas, zoning, business ventures, etc. He suggested setting up subcommittees and then get together with the ideas.

Mr. Hathaway said an issue is how many moorings does Dartmouth want in the harbor, he feels this is an issue that should be decided ahead of time. He said that in Clarks Cove there are shellfish beds, good water, moorings, and may be considered a good area by some. Mr. Metcalf said that more of Clarks Cove is in New Bedford.

The WMC agreed to gather data for a master plan.

Public Comment.

Mr. Jreck Leduc asked if an official Waterways Master Plan could lead to an accreditation issue for future funding and if the State wants to see it before you qualify for a master plan. Mr. Hickey said that they are looking into the type of plan that is needed to receive State help. Dr. Burke said that there are not many master plans in existence. Mr. Hickey said the funding for a master plan is a major concern. Dr. Burke suggested the WMC may be willing to meet with Mr. Buell Hollister and he can answer some questions. He will look into asking Mr. Buell Hollister to come to a future meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 26, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. – Room 315

It was moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. Seconded. So Moved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane L. Vieira