

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING

OCTOBER 01, 2003

A meeting of the Waterways Committee was duly called and held on Wednesday, October 1, 2003 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, Norm Peloquin and Peter Hill. Absent were Arthur Burke and Bob Szala.

Mr. Hathaway reviewed the minutes of the September 22, 2003 meeting. Mr. Hathaway noted there were two small changes on the first page. The fourth paragraph should read Lindberg Marine not Gifford Marine. The fifth paragraph should read Mr. Buell Hollister is the person to contact. Mr. Hill motioned to accept the minutes. Mr. Hickey seconded. So Voted.

Mr. Hathaway reviewed the agenda for tonight's meeting. First, he would like to get a report from the Acting Harbormaster, Ken Pacheco. Second, he would like to discuss the prices of the pier repairs. Third, he would like to further review the mooring regulations with Mr. Hill. Fourth, discussion of the Town Meeting article. Fifth, the new language for the transition period. Sixth, the new rates with Bob Metcalf. Seventh, review of the job description of Harbormaster, the three-year term, meeting with the Personnel Committee to change the job to a Grade 10. There will be a meeting with the Select Board on October 20 to discuss the progress of the Commission. Mr. Hill moved to accept the agenda. Mr. Peloquin seconded. So voted.

Mr. Pacheco gave his report. He said that the repair work on the docks should be advertised in the paper per Mr. Michael Gagne. Mr. Peloquin asked if any fees or permits were required. Mr. Pacheco said yes. Mr. Peloquin asked if it would be included in the contract. He was told it could be. Mr. Pacheco said all material would be pressure treated. It has to be specific in the bid.

Mr. Hathaway said there has to be at least three bids, and then they go to the Finance Committee. Mr. Metcalf suggested getting the bids before Town Meeting.

Mr. Pacheco said that he has cut back on the hours of the assistant harbormasters since Labor Day. He said that Moe is still working on the web site and Ida is full time. He stated that he was asked by Michael to get a list of outstanding tickets. There are 214 tickets not paid since 2001, some people have five tickets. One boat is impounded. Mr. Gagne said that this will be put in the hands of Town Council.

Mr. Hill reported on the rules and regulations. He said that they are working on the changes and the fact finding group will be getting back together to go over the changes. This is a work in progress.

Mr. Hathaway said we should discuss the language during the transition period. This will have to be explained as clearly as possible. Mr. Hill to read it. He said the transition mooring period is 10/01/03 through 01/01/04. Prior to 2002 rental and sales were approved by the Town of Dartmouth, all sales must now be approved by the Harbormaster. Mr. Hill said the rules would go into effect 01/01/04.

Mr. Pacheco stated that the mooring list has moved about 50 positions this summer.

Mr. Hathaway asked Mr. Hill for a final copy of the rules and regulations as soon as possible so he can give it to Mr. Gagne before Town Meeting.

Rates. Mr. Hathaway asked if there was anything new. Mr. Metcalf said that he has it summarized. He said that the rules were approved along with a 50% discount for disabled vets. There is an increase in the proposed fees that was approved. There are no new changes.

Job Description. Mr. Hathaway discussed previous changes regarding qualifications, a high school graduate with consideration being given for other education. Functions: Control waterways and to operate as the Oil Spill Co-ordinator. These two functions will be added to the description. The length of employment contract will be three years. He met with Atty. Hannon regarding his interpretation of the state law. He said that the job basically as tenure, except for just cause. Atty. Hannon advises to be specific about the term in the contract, and make an amendment to the charter for a three-year term with a performance review by the Waterways Management Committee.

Once this is approved, a public hearing will be scheduled for early November; the commission will present its case regarding the employment contract change. Hopefully the Select Board will approve this amendment and it will be approved by a 2/3 vote at Town Meeting. Mr. Hathaway said if the Commission approves this he will meet with Mr. Gagne to start the process for Town Meeting in November.

A motion was made to pursue the Town Charter change for the Job Description. Mr. Hickey motioned. Mr. Metcalf seconded. So Moved. Mr. Hill abstained from the vote. Four in favor. One abstained.

Mr. Hathaway said that he will meet with the Personnel Board regarding the Grade level change.

Mr. Hathaway said that the Finance Committee would like to meet with the Commission next Thursday night at 8:00 p.m. at the Council On Aging Building. He said the meeting will be about 20 minutes regarding the article to be presented at Town Meeting. He asked Mr. Hill to make a presentation at that meeting, also Mr. Metcalf on the rates and Mr. Peloquin regarding the pier repairs. Mr. Hathaway asked if there should be a regular meeting to discuss what to present to the Finance Committee or if the committee feels comfortable with the present information. They feel they do not need another meeting. Mr. Metcalf feels it is important that everyone attend this meeting.

Mr. Hathaway said that the other request is to meet with the Select Board on October 20, 2003 to give them an update on the Committees progress. Mr. Hathaway said that he will be away and asked Mr. Peter Hill to chair the meeting. Mr. Metcalf asked if the date could be changed so that all members could attend. He will try to change it.

The next meeting for the Waterways Management Committee will be Tuesday, October 14, 2003.

New Business

Public Comment. Ms. Natalie Dias suggested that along with the amendment to the charter for the Harbormaster it also be considered to change him to a Group 4 for the Retirement Board. Group 4 is Public Safety. The advantage would be a better retirement for public safety group. Mr. Len Gonsalves said that a major reason for the defeat of this in the past was money.

Mr. Steven Melo spoke regarding the dock issue. He said there are different grades of pressure treated wood and it should be addressed in the bid specifications. He asked about the transfer of mooring within families, and if late fees will be assessed on waterways fees. Mr. Melo said that some people may not want to pay a fee in January when they do not use the water until June. Mr. Pacheco said that it could be refunded.

Old Business

None

After a motion by Mr. Hill and seconded by Mr. Hickey, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira