

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING

DECEMBER 03, 2003

A meeting of the Waterways Committee was duly called and held on Wednesday, December 03, 2003 at 7:02 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Warren Hathaway. The following people were present: Mr. Hathaway, Gerry Hickey, Robert Metcalf, Arthur Burke, Bob Szala and Peter Hill. Absent was Norm Peloquin.

Mr. Hathaway reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on November 11, 2003 meeting. 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 a report from the fact find group relating to Salters Point. Third, he would like to further discuss the commercial mooring rentals. Followed by New Business, Old Business and Adjournment. Hill moved to accept the agenda. Mr. Burke seconded. So voted.

Mr. Ken Pacheco passed out some mooring requests he received:

- First, Mr. David O'Neill, Howland Avenue. Mr. O'Neill inherited two moorings from his grandfather, south of the island. These moorings were not registered, but have been in since 1955. They have been kept up and marked. The area where they exist is a clear area, and Mr. O'Neill would like to activate the moorings. Mr. Pacheco stated there are no records but people have confirmed that they do exist. Mr. O'Neill stated that there are two located one near Howland Estates and the other closer to the island. Both are cement blocks, four feet square by 18" deep, pyramid style. They have maintained the moorings and kept location records. He said they have tried to contact people to reinstitute the moorings in compliance with the Town. Mr. Hathaway said that the moorings have been marked and kept up. He suggested having the O'Neill's pay the past due fees since 1987 and get the needed approvals. He stated this is not new moorings or new space. Mr. Burke agreed. Mr. Hill agreed providing Mr. Pacheco establish the position and if the water is adequate, and that it be brought up to the new specs. Mr. O'Neill asked that concrete be allowed because electrolysis in that area of the river. Mr. Hickey asked how many more people there may be in this situation. Mr. Pacheco said he doesn't know; some old moorings cannot be redone because new ones are around it. Mr. Hickey said the action taken on this will set an example for the future. Mr. Metcalf said this mooring was not abandoned and has remained in the same family. Mr. Burke moved that it be accepted upon payment of the past fees. Mr. Hickey seconded. So Voted. Mr. O'Neill said he will accept the committees recommendation and that an inspection be done.
- The next request was from Mr. Edwin Campbell, he has a storm mooring in the harbor since 1992. In the past he has let Mr. Matthew Smith use it, he would like it to continue. Mr. Hill said this will not be consistent with the new regulations. Mr. Hickey said that as of January 1, the boat of record has to be on it. He could let his son use it. Mr. Hill moved to deny the request. Mr. Burke seconded. So Voted.
- The next request was from Fran Faith of Elm Street. He has a real estate business and has rented out three moorings in the past. Mr. Hill asked how long he has had the business. Mr. Pacheco said since 07/11/03. Mr. Hill moved to deny the request. Mr. Hickey feels that the businesses allowed has to be in the mooring business; this was discussed at length. Mr. Hathaway has spoken to Town Council and the wording of the regulations should stand. Mr. Hill again moved to deny it. Mr. Hickey seconded. So Voted.

Mr. Pacheco then spoke regarding the dock issue. He said the pump out dock is moored by two cement blocks has moved closer to the bridge. He said there is also a huge rock that they are having a hard time moving. At low tide, it is near the surface of the water. He said the gangplank has to be repaired. He stated he will be talking with Micheal Gagne about the Town Dock. Mr. Pacheco said they have transferred over 50 moorings since July 1. Mr. Hill said that moving of the rock seems expensive, should we get bids. Mr. Pacheco said that whatever company does the Town Dock, maybe could do this one.

Mr. Hathaway said Mr. Wayne of Salters Point would like to speak. Mr. Wayne introduced Ace Bailey, president of the association. Mr. Hickey said he did not receive Mr. Wayne's letter. Mr. Hathaway asked what is the Salters Point Yacht Club. Mr. Wayne said the yacht club is the association. He said the moorings are a separate operation, but they have tried to make the moorings available to renters. By sharing the moorings, they do not need as many. Many families have more than one boat, they share a mooring; otherwise they will each need a mooring for only a few weeks. The association owns six moorings; some allow the association to use it when they are not using it. The association owned moorings are rented out only to renters at Salters Point. Mr. Wayne said he keeps close records on these moorings. Mr. Bailey said that when someone rents their home, the mooring is part of the agreement. Some owners rent their mooring out to other property owners, not for profit, but to maintain the mooring. Mr. Pacheco asked the size of the boats. They go up to 38-40 feet. Mr. Pacheco asked if it is a registered association. It is a non-profit organization registered with the State. Mr. Pacheco sent the association a grid that he requested. Mr. Wayne said that it was off. They are trying to straighten it out. Tripp has been inspecting some.

Mr. Pacheco said that the other problem is that there are other organizations near Salters Point and only 16 moorings are registered. Mr. Wayne said that he is willing to help. Mr. Pacheco said that boats that are on a mooring for more than 14 days need to get the proper permits. Mr. Bailey said that some owners/renters do not know the regulations. There were no notices; they will help inform the renters of the regulations in the future. Mr. Burke said that they need to tighten up their policies. He feels that renters should be allowed to use a mooring. Mr. Bailey would like to work with the Town to solve this issue. Mr. Hathaway's concern is that all moorings be accurate registered and have a good description of the weights and that the moorings are inspected. Mr. Hill said he is on record for 'one owner, one boat' and he would not want to vote on this until he has had time to review it more. Mr. Hickey feels that there are three types of moorings-recreational, commercial and municipal. These would be recreational moorings owned by an organization. He said that as of January 1, there is no renting of mooring – but they have to look into the family owning a mooring with different boats. He feels each issue should be discussed separately. Mr. Szala said the fact find group spent a lot of time and that the regulations should be followed. Mr. Metcalf said that regulations aren't new and they should be followed – have to be careful making too many exceptions. Mr. Hickey suggested taking the concerns and forming a subcommittee to work on it and report to the group. Mr. Wayne and Mr. Bailey said that they will be available to go to committee meetings to answer questions. Mr. Pacheco suggested the association could become a commercial entity. Mr. Hathaway said that all moorings would be registered and inspected. Mr. Wayne said they are all up to date with inspections. They will try to get copies of the inspections from Davis & Tripp. Mr. Hickey moved to postpone this until a later date; Secondly, that the people involved get together with the Harbormaster providing him will all the information [moorings, locations, size] and also have all the issues and concerns separated to be able to discuss each issue separately. Mr. Wayne said he will be happy to do this. Bill of Davis & Tripp said that the moorings they inspected were sent to the Town Hall and not the Harbormaster. Motion was seconded. All in favor. Mr. Hathaway said that anyone wanting to discuss this issue contact the Harbormaster directly.

Mr. Hathaway said that the final specifications posted on the web will be different from what is there now.

New Business – none.

Old Business – none.

Public Comment.

Mr. Ned Leduc, Elm Street. He said that he can vouch for Mr. O'Neill's moorings, they were always kept up and marked. He feels that the O'Neill's should not be charged for the past fees. He also said that the WMC has a problem with Salters Point issues because this will be setting an example for the future. He agrees with Mr. Hill, one mooring one owner. He will be upset if the WMC gives Salters Point residents permission for families to use the moorings, when he has three and his family cannot use them.

Mr. Steve Melo said that he has tried to move the rock and maybe the DPW jackhammer crew should try to knock it down.

Mr. David O'Neill said he would like to see the speed of boats controlled near the island. His family swims there and many times boats come thru at more than 5 miles per hour. He suggested maybe signs could be posted. Ms. Gay suggested that if it is a designated beach, maybe buoys could be placed there. Mr. Pacheco said that they have plans to place signs there next season.

Ms. Nat Dias asked when the WMC will be hiring the Harbormaster. Mr. Hathaway said that as soon as they can discuss the scope of the Harbormaster, they will be hiring one hopefully by the start of the season.

After a motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Szala, it was voted to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira