

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS COMMITTEE MEETING

DECEMBER 16, 2003

A meeting of the Waterways Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, December 16, 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, Norm Peloquin, and Peter Hill. Absent was Bob Szala.

Mr. Hathaway reviewed the minutes of the meeting held on December 03, 2003. There was a correction in the fourth paragraph replacing 1987 with 1997. Mr. Hill moved to accept the minutes with the correction. Mr. Hickey seconded. So Voted.

Mr. Ken Pacheco, Acting Harbormaster, gave his report. He received a request from the Select Board asking what they are doing and where the money is coming from. He distributed a report on this. He said some of the money is coming from a superfund grant. Moe is handling the web site and Isaac is entering the information himself. New inspections are being done and entered into computer as it is being done. He stated they have found 150 moorings not registered since 1997. He said Moe is looking for software to put the mooring locations on the computer. He stated that while he is the acting harbormaster, he is also the Shellfish Warden - moving shellfish beds and planting seeding - following up in May to see if it worked. His department also does water testing. Mr. Burke asked about the expense compared to previous years. Mr. Pacheco said that in the past it was just Arthur Dias. This year it's himself running two departments. He said that there is enough money to cover his and the assistants' salaries. Mr. Hickey asked if they would be in the red. Mr. Pacheco said no.

Mr. Pacheco said he has a request from Alex Pastough, wanting to know the status of his mooring. Mr. Pastough last used the mooring in 2000, in 2001 it was reassigned to Glen Styles. He has checked the mooring and it has been used this year - they have no idea who used it. Mr. Pacheco said this is a good example why a sticker should be placed on the buoy. He requested it, the stickers were printed with the registration number and Mr. Gagne wanted one on the registration form, Mr. Pacheco requested that instead one be placed on the boat and one on the buoy - to be able to trace it. They will try to contact Mr. Styles to see who has been using the mooring.

Mr. Pacheco next said that Mr. Peter Sylvia claims he owns a mooring, 16-2, and also Concordia claims they own the mooring. Mr. Pacheco said they would try to assign Mr. Sylvia another mooring in the area. Mr. Jeff Simmons said that one year Mr. Sylvia's boat ended up on Concordia's mooring. Mr. Nat Dias said that at one point he didn't pay his fees.

Mr. Pacheco gave out the new waterways fee chart. Mr. Hill said if it is correct to put it on the web site. He handed out a list of boats in the harbor, while some have not paid, he will check with the Collectors office. Mr. Hathaway said that this might not happen with stickers. Mr. Pacheco said that the pump-out boat could check for stickers when the boat is out.

Mr. Hill asked about the rock at the Town dock. Mr. Pacheco said it would be addressed with the dock company repairing the dock.

Mr. Hill said that they have accepted the rules and regulations with the exception of article 15. He said the subcommittee also has a change for number 22. He thanked all who have helped in this. Mr. Hill read the changes to Article 15-inspection care and maintenance. After January, 2004 a mooring could be inspected underwater but future inspections will be out of the water. Mr. Hickey moved to accept this change. Mr. Peloquin seconded. So Voted.

Mr. Hill then went to Article #22, he has received input from people as to Winter Stakes. "Winter Stakes have to be removed from all moorings between June 1 and October 1 of each year." Mr. Metcalf moved to accept it. Mr. Peloquin seconded. So Voted.

Mr. Hill asked about the regulations be made for the Town of Dartmouth. He said they changed the sizes of the chains. He said they kept the three types of anchoring systems. Bay View to Round Hill changed the length of chain. Mr. Burke said they are moving in the right direction but he is concerned on the west side. He feels the tackle specs are a bit heavy. He is concerned it could be expensive.

The approved changes will be going on the Web Site soon. Mr. Hickey said that they have made changes, but the final say is the harbormasters. Mr. Hathaway said they appreciate all the input they have received. Mr. Hill said that some people use better chains than the specs call for and they hope it will stay that way. Mr. Metcalf moved to accept the changes. Mr. Hathaway seconded. So Moved. Mr. Burke said he would like to go on record saying he thinks it is excessive. He understands the work put in it but he feels it will be a big expense. Mr. Simmons said that it is excessive for the ¾" change, 5/8" will hold. Mr. Hickey proposed to send it back to the committee to make changes. He proposed to table it for now and let the experts review it. Mr. Hill asked to be excused from the sub committee and to have Mr. Burke replace him. Mr. Hathaway said to put it on the web site as proposed and see the reponse to it. Mr. Hickey said there could be changes. Moe said he could update the changes.

Mr. Hathaway next spoke about the Salters Point Association. He said that it should be consistent with the rest of the Town. He said that the homeowners rent the houses and the mooring goes with it. Mr. Hickey asked that the agreement includes an inspection. Mr. Metcalf said that this isn't just Salters Point - a lot of people have homes near the water. Mr. Peloquin said he as difficulty with mooring rentals when others cannot rent it. Mr. Pacheco said it is a tuff call because it involves a lot of people. Mr. Hickey feels we should be accommodating to people, where the house and boat go together. Ms. Dias said that it could be the same as someone using a slip but owns a mooring and wants to rent the mooring, it could be considered the same. Ms. Enid Silva said the Salters Point group could purchase the moorings and then rent it out, such as Concordia or Davis & Tripp. This way the association will be responsible and not the renter. Ms. Gay of Salters Point said she does the renting there, and she has never had a request for a boat. She said that the renters, if the boat doesn't meet the specs, it cannot be put there. She said the association has three moorings, all homeowners have their own mooring.

Mr. Hickey said that if a family shares a home and mooring, it is acceptable for all members to use the mooring. If they rent a house and the boat meets the requirements for the mooring, it can be used with the house. He said everything has to be under the Harbormaster and consistent. Mr. Metcalf said that he knows of two moorings without a boat, he likes the idea of a lottery to a commercial operator to be rented out. Mr. Burke agrees with the essence of this with fine-tuning. Mr. Hickey said that whatever isn't owned is commercial moorings. Mr. Hathaway asked what will be done with a person owning a house with a mooring and no boat. Mr. Hickey said that one mooring-one boat, if no boat no mooring.

Mr. Hill said that the moorings, if sold to a commercial company, the renter of the home could rent the mooring from the commercial company. If the homeowner doesn't have a boat, the mooring could be sold to a commercial company, when the home is rented, the renter could rent the mooring from the company and pay the waterways fees. Ms. Carol Hill said that this is what Concordia does now at Nonquitt. She said the renter calls Concordia and they rent the mooring to them. Also, the homeowner can retain ownership and split the fees – which isn't allowed now.

Moe said that he agrees with this, but his concern is people on the waiting list – would it go to the list first or for lottery to commercial companies. Mr. Simmons said that it should go to the waiting list first. Mr. Pacheco said that someone on the waiting list would have a problem getting a mooring at Salters Point because they could not get to the mooring thru private property.

Mr. Hill moved that the people on the mooring committee take this under advisement and work it out and bring it back to the WMC. He moved to refer this back to the mooring committee to work out. Mr. Peloquin seconded. So Voted.

Mr. Pacheco brought up a case of one mooring that the owner wants to put two boats on it. He said the owner also has a mooring at Bristol, RI and wants to switch the boats. Mr. Hill said that if both boats are registered, there would be no problem.

New Business. Mr. Ned Leduc asked if the Harbormaster applied for a grant, he heard it wasn't applied for. Mr. Pacheco said that they received this grant. Mr. Leduc also stated that he is disappointed that the Harbormaster hasn't been replaced, he feels that the appointment has been put aside for the new regulations. Mr. Hathaway said that they needed to prepare things for Town Meeting and now they will look into the appointment – after the first of the year the WMC will look into this. Mr. Burke said that they have a good acting Harbormaster that is working with the WMC on this. Mr. Hickey said that the WMC is moving along as planned.

Mr. Metcalf said that the rules and regulations are fine with some fine-tuning which should be accomplished by the next meeting.

Old Business. Mr. Hill said that he has some old business that he will table until the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 6, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

After a motion by Mr. Hill, seconded by Mr. Hickey, it was voted to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira