

## MINUTES OF THE WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, May 05, 2016

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly called and held on Thursday, May 05, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 by the Chairman, Gerald Hickey. Present were members: Joseph Hannon, Roger Race, Warren Hathaway, Geoffrey Marshall and Andrew Herlihy. Absent was Mr. Gerard Clark. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster, Debra Melino-Wender, Grant Administrator and Select Board member John Haran.

Mr. Hickey reviewed the minutes of the January 26, 2016 meeting. Mr. Hathaway moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved. Mr. Melo referred to the minutes of the January 14, 2016 meeting that was accepted at the January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, he said that a section was omitted regarding a request from Ms. Deborah Melino-Wender for a letter of endorsement for Parks for using CPC funds for the Water Street project. Mr. Hannon moved to accept the minutes with the change. Mr. Herlihy seconded. So Moved.

Mr. Hickey read the agenda for the evening. Mr. Raced moved to accept the agenda. Mr. Marshall seconded. So Moved.

### Seaport Council Grant.

Mr. Hickey said he would like to thank Mr. David Cressman and Ms. Debra Melino-Wender on the work done on the grant for one million dollars for the development of a waterfront park. Mr. Hickey said that Ms. Melino-Wender will review the grant and the WMC will ask questions on this, then it will be opened up for the public input and questions. Mr. Hickey said that this project has created alot of interest in the area.

Ms. Debra Melino-Wender, Director of Development for the Town, said that she will review the project, community goals and objectives. She said that there is a lack of waterfront access in the area and that the purchase of the yellow house on Water Street will provide this access along with recreational opportunities. She said that some of the business issues were discussed at meetings to integrate the village with the waterfront. The Seaport Council Grant authorized in August, 2015 by Governor Baker; the main purpose of this grant is to cultivate economic growth on the waterfront. The Town submitted an application for this grant; a lot of people have been involved in preparing this. This is a plan so a budget can later be formed. The property is located on Water Street and she presented architect plans for the area. It will present waterfront access to the area as well as jobs and invite local tourism to the area. The house will provide bathroom and shower areas as well as dingy docking. It can also provide future recreational programs. The property will have to be purchased before this can be done. She said that the application was long and submitted by December 1, 2015 and was considered a strong application. She said it was a very competitive grant with Dartmouth and Harwich were awarded one million dollars each.

Mr. Hickey asked about the feasibility of the project and who will own the house. Ms. Melino-Wender said that the project will combine phases with other funding. She said that the Select Board will retain ownership of the property, seawall, docks and floats; DPW and Parks & Recreation will be assigned

responsibility for the outside of the property. Mr. Hickey asked if the house has been inspected. Ms. Melino-Wender said not yet but it will be and also for handicap accessibility. Ms. Melino-Wender said that the seawall and dock hasn't been inspected yet. Mr. Michael O'Reilly said that the seawall repairs will need permits from the Conservation Commission. Ms. Melino-Wender said that the ADA compliance for the first floor is paid for by the grant and that the Grant and CPC monies should be enough to make it assessable to the public. She also said that the funding for the ramp and seawall should be through the grant. Mr. Hickey asked if a study has been done for income or revenue potential. Ms. Melino-Wender said at this time it will not be generating income.

Mr. Hickey said that he is concerned about using boater fees for this project since the Waterways is a self-supporting enterprise and that dingy rental spots may be an idea. Mr. Marshall asked if it is a transit facility will any fees come from it. Ms. Melino-Wender said it will be up to the Waterways. She said that in the grant 80% of the space has to be available free to the public. Ms. Melino-Wender said that there is very limited parking in the area. Ms. Melino-Wender said that the grant is for economic development and should be open to the transient public. Mr. Hannon said that if user fees are to be used there has to be a connection between this project and the boaters.

Mr. Hathaway asked if any studies have been made on the relationship between the village and the waterfront. Ms. Melino-Wender said that people feel this is a good location that will enhance the water connection. Mr. Hathaway asked about safety in the area. He feels this is a dangerous spot near the bridge and feels that another space may be better for this project. He said that this is a trouble spot for kayaks.

Mr. Hickey opened the questions to the public.

Ms. Patty Sweriduk of Elm Street thanked the Town for applying for a grant that will revitalize Padanaram and bring people back to the village. She is head of the sailing school at NBYC and would like to see more people interested in the water. She feels that this is a bad site for this project since it is an unsafe area. She would like to know where people will be parking to use this facility. Ms. Melino-Wender said that there could be some parking.

Mr. Arthur Burke of Elm Street said that there are strong currents in that area of water. He said that the village is making a comeback thanks to a lot of people. He would like to see everyone get together and look for other sites for this grant. Ms. Melino-Wender said that if this site is not chosen, they have to reapply for another grant since the grant is site specific.

Mr. Kevin Murphy of Water Street asked Mr. O'Reilly why this ramp is not being used. Mr. O'Reilly said that there are a lot of rocks near the ramps which cannot be moved and it is very steep.

Mr. Mark Smith of Wilson Street said that he has children that are on the water and this is an unsafe area. He asked if the transient boats will bring in any income. Ms. Melino-Wender said no.

Mr. Hickey said that he is concerned that if one part of this project doesn't work can grant money be transferred somewhere else. He called the Seaport Council and spoke with Carolyn Kirk and was told it's a Town grant to achieve a certain goal. He asked Ms. Kirk if they want to use this grant for another

project could it be done. Ms. Kirk said the Town would have to reapply for approval to use this grant in another area. She said that there is \$43,000 in fiscal 16; there is \$720,000 for fiscal 17 and \$215,000 in fiscal 18. He said that we are already in the \$43,000. phase of the project. This money is set aside but if it isn't used it can be taken back. If we have a Plan B with the same goals it may be approved by the Council, and the funds are earmarked or Dartmouth to fulfill their stated goals and objectives.

Ms. Sweriduk said that she doesn't allow anyone to go into this area alone because of the current. Mr. Hickey feels that the people present today know the water well and they can be a big help with this project. He said that they have to study this and determine if this is the best site for this project. The WMC will go before the Select Board next Monday with their decision.

Mr. Mike Sweetser of Seawood Lane asked if the WMC can vote to set-up a board to gather information to and return it to the WMC. He said maybe a group of citizens can make some input. Mr. Hickey said that they can make a recommendation and will determine what to present to the Select Board.

Mr. Donald White of Beach Avenue thanked the WMC for water accessibility at the dock and Rogers Street. He would like the Town to grow. He said that another dock in the area is already Town owned and we should use Town owned property.

Mr. Burke said that there should be a Plan B so that we can keep the grant monies. Ms. Melino-Wender-Wender said that the highlights of the Grant is economic development and jobs.

Mr. Steward McGregor, CPC member, said that this is a good grant and should be supported. He said that this is affordable waterfront property and we do not always see affordable property on the waterfront. He said it may not be safe for some sports, and that safety has to be a key. He said it is important for the Harbormaster to be on the water.

Mr. Race said that there are many unanswered questions for the boaters.

Mr. Hickey reviewed the memorandum of understanding. Ms. Melino-Wender-Wender said that there were different groups involved with this MOU – Select Board, Parks, DPW, and Waterways. Mr. Melo said that this MOU is to understand what the departments will be responsible for. Mr. Hickey review Phase 1 of the MOU from house to street – Changes: First, under General Clean-up 'The DPW will be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the parking area. Mr. Melo said that some of the funds used for the ADA compliance gangway will come from money set aside from a previous Nonquitt project. Second change will be 'Waterways will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance and repairs of the gangway and docks'. Mr. Melo said that some user fees will be used because of the pump-out dock. Mr. Hathaway said that we still need alot of answers. Mr. Herlihy feels that each Phase should be separated and voted on. Mr. Hannon moved for Phase 1 as stand-alone since it has to be done even if the yellow house project doesn't happen. Mr. Marshall seconded. So Moved.

Phase 2. Mr. Hickey read Phase 2 of the MOU. Ms. Melino-Wender-Wender said that there may be times when no one is at the house. Mr. Hickey said that may be a problem if the area is unmanned and open to the public. Mr. Race said that there are no plans to put the Harbormaster Staff in the building at this time. Mr. Race moved that it be noted there are no plans to move the Harbormaster Office or

Operations. Mr. Hannon seconded. So Moved. Mr. Race moved that we should know more info before agreeing. Mr. Hathaway seconded. So. Moved.

Phase 3. Mr. Melo explained that there is a storm drain between the bridge and pump-out dock. This is building a beach under the pump-out dock tilting it. He said that the DPW fixed another storm drain at the Sylvia property on Water Street and he is hoping this one will be fixed also. He said that the first parking space is for the bridgetender and the entire lot may have historically been used for a toll house for the bridge. There are still be utilities under the space. He said that this could be a spot for a Harbormaster office that would give him a view of the harbor. Mr. Marshall moved to accept Phase 3 with any changes. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved.

Ms. Melino-Wender-Wender asked Mr. Melo to put something together on the cost and responsibility for running a dock from the yellow house. She wanted a cost estimate of the general operation of this type of transient facility. Mr. Melo said he would try to gather the information from other towns.

Mr. Hickey said that he would like something in writing regarding the responsibility of the site and what responsibility various departments will have. Ms. Melino-Wender-Wender agreed to try and make it clearer. Mr. Hickey said that he is happy with what the project is going to do but there are still a lot of issues with this location. Mr. Marshall feels a Plan B should be made in case it's needed, we would be ready to move forward with it. Mr. Marshall said that he would like a committee be formed to review second sites. Mr. Hannon seconded. Mr. Race said that the time is limited to form a plan. Mr. Hickey said that the WMC likes the concept of this project and would like to make it work. Mr. Melino-Wender-Wender said that CPC funding needs specific information and may need to be resubmitted if the plan changes. Mr. Hickey stressed that we have to be careful that the Town doesn't lose the money.

Mr. Burke said that they are not opposed to the concept but none of the public was never included in the discussions of the project. He said that they believe in the concept of access, but would like a Plan B to be sure that we don't lose the grant money. Mr. Hickey feels that this is a great opportunity and we have to move fast on it. Mr. Marshall moved to form a committee for alternative sites and plans. Mr. Hathaway seconded. So Moved.

Mr. Raced moved to postpone the rest of the agenda to the next meeting. Mr. Hannon seconded. So Moved.

Mr. Melo said that it has been posted for the WMC to meet on May 09, 2016 in conjunction with the Select Board meeting.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira