

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

MAY 19, 2016

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly called and held on Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at Dartmouth Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Gerald Hickey. The following people were present: Joseph Hannon, Roger Race, Geoffrey Marshall and Andrew Herlihy. Absent were Gerard Clark and Warren Hathaway. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Hickey reviewed the agenda. Mr. Race moved to accept the agenda. Mr. Hannon seconded. So Moved.

Seaport Grant. Mr. Hickey said that on May 5, 2016 there was a meeting regarding this. He said he would like to apologize to Ms. Deborah Melino-Wender for the response of the public to her at the last meeting. He said that there was a meeting with the Select Board and he was wondering if there are any changes. Mr. Melo read the prior motion that Mr. Marshall had previously moved, and Waterways unanimously voted not to endorse the Select Board purchase of the house at 4 Water Street until alternative sites were looked into. Mr. Hickey said that he had a meeting with the Finance Committee Chairman regarding the Town Meeting Article. The article is for the purchase and development of the Water Street home. This will provide a place for boaters coming into the area and also for town residents to use. This grant is a rare opportunity and the Finance Committee feels that this project should go forward and that in the future, the departments involved in this will come to an agreement for the maintenance and operation of the area. Mr. Hickey said that if it goes through with the purchase and sale, all the inspections have to be done and then a committee will be formed to follow the process through. Mr. Hickey said now the WMC has to decide to stop their involvement in the project or they can authorize the process to go forward. He said the final decision to purchase will go to Town Meeting. Mr. Marshall said that he isn't sure this will benefit the Town. Mr. Hannon said that the grant states that the Town will have meetings to engage the community in the development of the site. He said this will occur after purchase of the property. He said that the development of the property with this grant is a good thing but that user fee money should only be used if there is a direct benefit to the boaters who pay those fees. He feels we should allow the process to go forward. Mr. Race said that things have changed but it still has to be determined if this will be a benefit to the boaters. He would like to get more input from the village businesses. Mr. Hickey feels the community should be involved in this. Mr. Marshall is concerned that it should be more than a park if we are involved in it. Ms. Melino-Wender said that if approved an architect will be involved in the development of the area. Mr. Hickey asked if the inspections don't pass can other sites be used. Ms. Melino-Wender said that she isn't sure what will happen in that situation.

Mr. Kevin Murphy said if the purchase goes through we are committing most of the grant money to buy the property. He said that there was a meeting with the businesses and they have signed a petition to reject the plan to purchase 4 Water Street. They support looking at better options and they don't see this as good for business. First, due to the parking issue, parking is now in crisis and putting a park at 4 Water St. will make parking worse and may drive business away. Secondly, they would like to attract clientele by having a maritime center and programs at the Dias landing. They feel it will attract more people. Third, the current Bridge-tender Landing they feel has been an eyesore and needs to be fixed. Fourth, they feel that this will not pass Town Meeting. And lastly, they would like to see a new plan B. Mr. Hannon asked if the group has any ideas for parking. Mr. Murphy said that a shuttle bus service has been discussed with parking outside the village.

Mr. Hickey said that there will be much discussion on this at Town Meeting. He said that this is where these questions should come up. He asked if the WMC wants to vote on this or let it move to the next level – Town Meeting.

Dr. Arthur Burke asked if this fails at Town Meeting, can the grant be used for another location. Mr. Hickey isn't sure. Mr. Race said that the proposal will be gone and that it will have to be resubmitted as a new proposal. Ms. Melino-Wender said that it will have to be looked into but that there are very tight deadlines for this grant. She said that time is critical.

Mr. David Tatelbaum, Finance Committee Chairman, said that the Finance Committee voted 6-0 in favor of this. He said that Ms. Melino-Wender got the money and we have to go with it and that it is part of the process to work out the details as the project goes on. He said that if it doesn't work out, the Town can give the money back. Mr.

Hickey asked if the money can be applied to another project. Mr. Tatelbaum said that we might be able to get more money next year, the future is unknown. Mr. Race feels that all these questions will come up at Town Meeting and the answers may change the project.

Mr. John Haran said that he feels it might fail at Town Meeting and he would like to see a Plan B ready to go. He said that someone could get up at Town Meeting with a Plan B and get a consensus so that we do not have to wait until the Fall Town Meeting. Mr. Hannon said at first the project seemed to be from Parks and Recreation and they were in support of this but it turned out that boater user fees could be used and that creates another situation. Mr. Haran said that people will want to know what the cost to maintain this into the future will be. Dr. Burke would like a back-up plan allowing the Town to keep the grant.

Mr. Hannon moved that the WMC advise the Select Board and Town Meeting that WMC supports its application for proposed Maritime Center as an important and attractive element in the revitalization of the Village and the consequent enhancement to the tax base of the Town and,

The WMC advises the Select Board accept the grant and purchase the 4 Water Street real estate subject to the following understanding and conditions to be included in a Memorandum of Understanding among participants;

1. That the purchase does not require eminent domain.
2. That the post grant project 'engagement' requirement in the grant application include consideration of the abutting Town owned land south of 4 Water Street and the Dias Landing for improvements consistent with the Seaport Council Grant; and
3. That capitalization of the project be funded with the Seaport Grant, CPC grant and General Funds and other sources, if any, with no reliance on Waterways Enterprise funds unless and until Waterways Management Commission and Harbormaster specifically identify as attributable to the Project and quantify new and/or improved services available only to Waterways user fee payees.

The commission affirms the letter of support for the application to the Seaport Council issued by Chairman Hickey dated December 15, 2014; and to the Community Preservation Commission dated January 15, 2016.

Mr. Race seconded. Mr. Hickey opened it to discussion.

Mr. Marshall said that he would still like to explore other options. Ms. Melino-Wender said that inspections have to take place and going forward depends on the results. Mr. Race would like to move forward and if it fails we can amend to a Plan B. Mr. Haran said that the process should move forward and let Town Meeting make the decision. Mr. Hannon said that the WMC has to advise the Select Board and there will be a lot of people speaking at Town Meeting. Mr. Tatelbaum said that the WMC will be very involved in the process if it goes forward.

Mr. Race asked if we can amend the motion to state that the WMC should be fully engaged in the process as it goes forward. Mr. Hickey asked for a vote on the motion. It was voted 3-2 for the motion. Mr. Marshall and Herlihy against.

Memorandum of Understanding. Ms. Melino-Wender said that no action has to be taken at this time. She said that this could change depending on the vote at Town Meeting.

Freedom Festival at Appongansett Point. Mr. Melo said that he was approached if the Freedom Festival from U-Mass could move to Appongansett Point. He asked for more information on this but was told by Mr. David Cressman that the Festival was cancelled. Ms. Melino-Wender said that U-Mass was going to issue a press release that due to construction and financial issues they are canceling it this year. Mr. Hickey said that Appongansett Point is a public access area and needs State approval to close it. This is a busy time for that area. No action taken.

Deputy Assistant Harbormaster. The Assistant started in April. Mr. Melo said that it is working out well with better office and waterway coverage.

Narcan. Mr. Melo said that he has had training in the EMS program that included Narcan training. He said that this is a hot topic and it has to be determined if his trained staff should carry it. Three Assistant people are trained in this. Mr. Race suggested asking other Harbormaster departments how they handle it. Mr. Melo said

That nearby waterfront towns have found needles around their waterfront facilities. Mr. Race would like more research on this matter before weighing in and suggesting our use.

Dias Landing-Harbormaster Office. Mr. Melo said that they are working on the office at the Town Landing, but pressure is off due to the cancelation of the causeway project.

Boater Safety Course. Mr. Melo said that he had an opportunity to co-host a boater safety course. It was done at Kids Ink on Dartmouth Street, and was a big success; the course included book learning, knots, flares and fire extinguishers. He said 16 people, kids and adults were enrolled. Mr. Melo said that he paid personally for the course and equipment. He said that he would like to put together more courses in the future. Mr. Hannon moved to reimburse Mr. Melo the \$400.00 cost out of pocket for the course. Mr. Hickey seconded. So Moved. Mr. Hickey agreed that this would be a good course.

Quahog Education Program. Mr. Melo said that he was approached by the Coalition of Buzzards Bay to teach a course about digging for quahogs on Saturday July 2, 2016. This includes learning how to quahog, what size to keep, and it will be done along Smith Neck Road from 11 am to 1pm. He said that if there is a good response we could do courses for other species in future years. Mr. Melo said that if the people have a permit, they can keep the quahogs harvested, otherwise it will be catch and release. Mr. Melo said that the WMC will be invited to attend.

New Business.

Mr. Hannon said that he has sent an e-mail to Town Council for clarification of the duties of the WMC. He said that he will ask Mr. Cressman to get Atty. Brian Cruise to attend one of our future meetings.

The next meeting will be Monday, June 06, 2016 @ 4:00 at the Town Hall.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira