

MINUTES OF THE WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, November 20, 2018 - 5:30 p.m. Room 315 Dartmouth Town Hall

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly scheduled for Tuesday, November 20, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 315 of Dartmouth Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Gerald Hickey. Present were members: Roger Race, Warren Hathaway, Geoffrey Marshall, Andrew Herlihy and Kevin Murphy. Also present was Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Hickey reviewed the Agenda for the meeting. It was moved by Mr. Hathaway and seconded by Mr. Race to accept the agenda.

The minutes of the last meeting of October 29, 2018 were reviewed and discussed. It was moved (R. Race) and seconded (W. Hathaway) to accept and post the prior minutes as presented. All approved. Geoff Marshall asked to have attendance corrected to show he was not present at the October meeting.

- A. **Hayes Marine Moorings:** Based upon the action taken to not issue commercial mooring permits to Hayes Marine after the 2018 season, The Harbormaster was advised to directly notify the former tenants of Hayes Moorings so they might have time to make alternate arrangements for the following seasons. Mr. Melo relayed that Mr. Brian Hayes asked for time to consult with his counsel regarding what course of action he might take regarding the mooring gear. That was just after the October meeting, and he has heard nothing since. The Commission wanted to make sure that the lack of accommodation would not come as a surprise next spring.
- B. **Regulation Changes:** The town counsel letter recently received recommends that a review of the posted regulations would be warranted. It has been at least 15 years since they were adopted, and there are still no definitions posted. Mr. Melo stated that the advised update will likely be part of the harbor management plan recommendations. It might be advisable to schedule such a review and revision exercise every ten years or so.
- C. **Harbor Management Plan Update:** An outline of the process done, and yet to be done, was given by Geoff Marshall. The preliminary plan has been posted on the Town's website. It was explained that this plan would not need Town Meeting approval or acceptance. It would be reviewed by the Planning Board, then Select Board for acceptance. General and specific recommendations with responsible parties identified will be included. An entity will be advised to oversee compliance, another entity to unify all 15 factions having responsibility over waterway issues. Collaboration and Cooperation remains a big issue, with much of that missing Town-wide. Kevin Murphy stated that the fishing pier proposal will be included as a goal in the plan. Issues regarding the lack of funding and resources from the Town for the waterways, confusion over the Town's designated oil spill coordinator, and similar issues will be addressed. Mr. Bliven from UHI stated that their contract ends at the end of March 2019. The Draft plan should be to the Select Board by the end of February. Another big issue for the plan will be water quality. The TMDL study by UMASS Dartmouth is decades old, but has never been adopted by the Town. The advisory sub-committee wants to see improvements to sustain eel grass. That recommendation would require a 35% reduction in overall nitrogen levels beyond what has already been measured. Greater water quality testing with source identification will be recommended. The monitoring plan will be a major undertaking, and comparisons were made to the Green Pond project UHI did for Falmouth. There are discrepancies over whether eel grass does exist in the north harbor. A filed visit with DEP, UHI and the Harbormaster will soon be scheduled. UHI is looking for input on the ranking and prioritization of the many recommendations. Mr. Race asked Mr. Bliven if UHI could be the "entity" charged with implementation of the plan, and what that might cost? Another issue being considered is to conduct an economic analysis of monetary value and impact of the harbor to the Town's value and economy. Volunteers or grad students might be considered to complete that analysis. Mr. Bliven noted the detrimental impact of not having a non-profit advocacy group lobbying for the Town's waterways.

Again a comparison was made to the “friends of the elderly” program and the benefits it brings through lobbying and financial support for the seniors and council on aging programs.

- D. Maritime Center Update:** Kevin Murphy provided an update of the rapid construction schedule for the project. The project remains on target, despite the bad weather lately. Completion by 12/23/18 is still contemplated. The Commission unanimously endorsed the installation of an internet-connected weather station at the building. The weathervane on the building cupola was agreed to be a catboat and Geoff Marshall is willing to make that donation from Marshall Marine. The harbor has been traditionally a home to catboats. Working catboats, and now cruising catboats have made Padanaram their home. It was suggested that Concordia could be approached to see if they wanted to be represented with a Concordia Yawl weathervane atop the flagpole to be installed on the promenade.
- E. Fishing Pier Update:** It was announced that the Padanaram Business Association will provide a letter of support for the dedicated fishing pier. They were unanimously in favor of the benefits to be provided by the installation of the pier. Eventually the State DMF will be looking for letters of support for the project from Waterways, DPW and the Select Board all addressed to DMF before this project can be put in line for funding. The average cost for each pier is about \$500K, with the state collecting about \$300K each year from fishing licenses.
- F. Rogers Street:** Andy Herlihy provided a brief update on the DPW project on Rogers Street. He was told that the DPW will not be installing a storm water scrubber for the storm drains at the bottom of Rogers Street. The scrubber was supposed to be installed at the end of Rogers Street, but it was decided not to do that.
- G. Dock Floats:** It was unanimously decided to schedule dock float removal sooner in the fall. Sometime soon after Halloween these floats could be removed while the weather is better for working on them. The removal should be posted on the website so boaters will expect it.
- H.** No Public Comment being offered, the meeting was voted unanimously adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The next meeting of the Waterways Commission will be on Tuesday 12/18/2018 at 5:30 pm.