

MINUTES OF THE WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, May 2, 2017 - 5:30 p.m. Room 314 Dartmouth Town Hall

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly scheduled for Tuesday, May 2, 2017 in Room 314. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Gerald Hickey. Present were members: Joseph Hannon, Geoffrey Marshall and Andrew Herlihy. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster, and Kevin Murphy.

Mr. Hickey reviewed the Agenda for the meeting. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda with alteration in the order of discussion.

The minutes of the last meeting of January 24, 2017 were reviewed and discussed. It was voted to accept and post the minutes as presented. All approved.

A. Arthur F. Dias Landing at Apponagansett Point: The Commission discussed the damages caused by the unauthorized use of the parking facility by Clean Harbors during their response to the diesel fuel spill on the causeway. Mr. Melo showed pictures of asphalt broken by the weight of the dumpsters holding contaminated soil and listed the numerous pieces of equipment used and stored over several weeks. It was suggested that we get estimates for proper asphalt repair, not cold patch. Mr. Hickey also will talk with Dave Hickox for advice on proper repair method and cost recovery to Waterways. The commercial use permit fee should also be sent to Clean Harbors for payment - after the fact.

Mr. Melo stated that he would like to construct one kayak/paddleboard storage rack to address the demand for those popular sports. A location will be identified this season, and a rack will be designed and installed prior to next season if demand still warrants additional space.

The Commission discussed competing use demands for the landing parking area. The causeway contractor will need storage areas for staging once Gulf Road to Smith Neck Road is open. An email was sent to the Park Department and Board to open a dialog regarding concert event parking and boater needs, but no response was received. Options for formalizing compensation and permission for Concert use was discussed without the invited guests. The urgent need to help expedite the causeway project completion could be a game-changer for the prior Park Department take-over on Wednesday nights. The Contractor would likely be willing to offer financial support of the facility in exchange for parking of equipment that does not interfere with boat launching.

Mr. Herlihy suggested that Mr. Melo contact Bristol County Sheriff Hodgson for work program assistance with landscaping and maintenance of the landing.

It was suggested that contracting with a private snow-plowing entity would be preferable for winter needs. Mr. Marshall moved, and it was unanimously approved that no boater enterprise funds be used for plowing since winter use of the landing was for shellfish purposes. Mr. Hickey wants to make sure that the costs for winter snow plowing are taken from the Shellfish General Fund budget since keeping open the ramps is to benefit the Aquaculture License issued. Mr. Melo commented that he has not yet received a thrice-requested copy of the Deputy HM contract, but if the Town contracted to supply a suitable vehicle for him, it could be one that has a snowplow option.

It was noted that a Park Dept. kayak and paddleboard program announced in conjunction with Osprey kayaks of Westport would be instructional in nature, and therefore no additional support, rescue or oversight on the water would be anticipated from waterways.

B. 12 Rogers Street – Agreement for shared use with C.B.C: The re-drafted agreement for shared use of 12 Rogers Street was discussed. Mr. Barnes emailed his approval following his review. The sharing and CBC use has already begun and should be good for both parties. The Council on Aging Director Amy DePietro requested use of the Rogers Street parking facility for a health fair scheduled on 5/17/17. Remote parking with shuttle service to the COA will assist with the anticipated crowds. Mr. Melo made arrangements subject to Commission assent. All were in favor of helping another Department when asked. Mr. Melo described damage that occurred to the granite fence one winter evening. The hi-and-run driver was apprehended nearby on Padanaram, but in New Bedford. Mr.

Melo tracked down the New Bedford Police report, and filed an incident report with Dartmouth PD. He has heard nothing since filing that report. It was suggested that he follow up himself to get the responsible party's insurance information to repair the chain and post.

- C. **Vacant Waterways Commission Seat:** The Town Administrator caused one vacancy on the Commission to be posted to the Town website last summer. To date, only one application has been received from Mr. Kevin Murphy. Mr. Murphy described his interest and background. Mr. Hannon moved that the Commission report back to the Select Board favorably regarding Mr. Murphy's application, as is called for in the Commission by-laws. It was then suggested that Mr. Murphy, subject to Select Board approval, would make an excellent liaison between the Waterways Commission and the Maritime Center Project, citing his involvement with the Water Street Improvement Group. It was suggested that be postponed until after confirming his appointment, but Mr. Hannon suggested an ad-hoc appointment of Mr. Murphy as liaison was in order. All Agreed.
- D. **Water Street Maritime Center update:** It was reported that survey work and boring samples would be taken in the month of May, 2017. Permit applications would be filed with federal, state and local agencies as needed through June of 2017. It was suggested that permits and updated plans should be completed by the end of calendar year 2017. Suggestions that the Waterways website be used to update the world as to the project progress were not widely accepted in light of the history of the project. Updates in the Commission meeting minutes should suffice at this point.
- E. **Shrink-Wrap #4 LDPE Recycling Efforts:** The announcements and printings promoting the recycling process for area boat shrink wrap were discussed. Mr. Hannon was praised for his idea and his follow-through to get this program up and running.
- F. **Pathways Committee/Harbor Walk and Chapter 91 issues being raised or discussed:** There has still been no outreach or communication to waterways regarding whatever this project entails. The town administrator sent an email to Mr. Hickey stating that Waterways represents "boater access" and the Commission has received no indication that boater access is any part of the Harbor Walk. That directive alone is reason for the Commission to separate itself from the issue at this point.
- G. **Waterways Master Plan Update:** Grant money from the SeaPort Economic Council has been applied for thanks to the work of Roger Race. It was completed well in advance of the May deadline. Mr. Melo announced that he has been asked to provide contract services for UMASS Boston relative to Harbormaster legal education, and if Urban Harbors Institute is selected by the Town for this project, he will file appropriate paperwork to disclose this association.
- H. **Department Update:** Mr. Melo updated the Commission on billing, permit issuance, mooring re-assignments and similar efforts underway with his office staff. He relayed the positive comment made by the Finance Committee during budget review that the Waterways Dept. added a full-time Deputy last year, yet the salaries budget for the Department has *decreased* by over 4%. As counter-intuitive as it seemed, the numbers proved the added efficiency.
- I. **Storage/Workshop Needs of the Department:** The recent collaborative work at the Wareham Harbormaster facility, combined with the sudden eviction of equipment stored in an empty Dartmouth Police Garage stall point to the need for Waterways to find a dedicated, suitable work and storage facility. We currently can only work outside year-round, and pay for commercial storage of necessary equipment and gear. It was suggested that a metal Conex box secured at Rogers Street might provide some storage options.
- J. **Public Comment:** Mr. Roy Tangen was present to discuss his recreational mooring permit with the Commission and Harbormaster. The Commission advised HM on a solution for his mooring misuse.

Following the public comment discussion, adjournment was moved and voted unanimously. The next meeting date was set for Tuesday June 20, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. unless needed sooner, and the meeting was adjourned by vote at 8:15 pm.