

MINUTES OF THE WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday September 15, 2020 - 4:00 p.m. Zoom Remote meeting

Zoom Id: 879 3559 4687

DCTV Archive: <http://75.147.58.17/CablecastPublicSite/show/6271?channel=1>

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2020. This meeting was held remotely through zoom due to the Governor's COVID-19 ban on large public gatherings.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hickey. Present and participating were members: Gerald Hickey, Roger Race, Andy Herlihy, Warren Hathaway, Kevin Murphy, Geoff Marshall, and Patty Sweriduk. Also present was Urban Harbors Institute (UHI) representatives Allison Novelty and Steven Bliven.
2. The **minutes** of the last meeting of 8/18/20 were reviewed and discussed. It was moved by Roger Race and seconded by Kevin Murphy to accept and post the minutes as presented. All approved by roll call vote.
3. **UHI Marina Feasibility Study Update, Contract Status:** Allison Novelty explained that UMass Boston does owe the Town a reply to the contract questions/issues submitted by Mr. Melo. UMass hopes to have the requested information within a week and the delay was caused by the start of their school year. Steve Bliven gave a synopsis of the overall project and purposes at the request of Chairman Hickey. He detailed the work done to date on the survey; outlined the status of the land management agreement between the State Public Access Board and the Town as updated in 1991; and detailed parking space allocation within the facility. Mr. Hickey discussed an early 1960's outline done for a municipal marina on the entire Apponagansett Point peninsula. The online public survey, description and purpose were explained, as well as the direct link of this project to the adopted Harbor Management Plan.
4. **Harbor Management Plan Implementation:** Mr. Melo described what he felt were misrepresentations made at a recent FinCom Meeting regarding what was reported that "nothing was being done" to implement that Plan. Discussions ensued regarding compiling a list of items specified in that plan already addressed or considered by waterways. Mr. Melo sought a clear indication from waterways, the Select Board or the Town Administrator over what parts of the Plan waterways is/should be responsible for implementation of. An article in a past Dartmouth Week reported the voted prioritization of objectives and tasks by Waterways Commissioners. The Commission advised that the Harbormaster seek a direct answer from the TA at one of his monthly meetings as to what the extent of implementation responsibility should be assumed by WMC and the Harbormaster. Mr. Bliven suggests that WMC decide whether the WMC wants to assume the "big role" of overall implementation committee for the entire Plan, or restrict their role to only those issues related to Harbormaster/boater functions. Roger Race made a motion that Waterways assume only the "core" issues related to boater issues and water quality, with other issues and objectives directed to specific other entities. Examples of objectives and issues related to the Park Dept. and the proposed "harbor walk" would better be addressed by groups other than waterways. In short, the motion specifies that the TA and Select Board be advised that WMC not serve as the "overall implementation committee" entity called for in the Plan. This motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy and unanimously supported by a roll call vote.

5. **Dias Landing:** Security Camera update. Mr. Melo gave an update of a recent on-site meeting held at the Dias Landing. Participants included DEG, DPD IT Tony Sousa, Town Treasurer Greg Barnes, and Waterways Commission representatives. Mr. Race took the lead for the Commission and Harbormaster, giving competent technical advice for correcting the problems with the project to date. DEG is to provide a statement of work, within a week, before proceeding with any additional work or corrections to what was installed so far. Mr. Melo gave an update on the course needed for changing the light fixtures at the landing to prevent the “bleed” of light pollution into homes across the harbor. He was directed to work with the Town’s Energy Consultant by the TA. That consultant has been working with a Sandwich, MA light design company to advise the best alternatives and equipment to send out for bids.
6. **Rogers Street Landing:** Mr. Hickey briefly described a recent meeting on-site with a representative of ESS Engineering regarding design issues, possible corrections and DPW construction for storm-water run-off at the base of Rogers Street. A storm-water treatment system desired for this area was the basis for assigning the boat ramp construction and grant money to ConCom by the former TA. It was learned that the ESS-designed system was not used by DPW. Mr. Race described some grant funding source that has lapsed, but would have required at least 33% local match for treating storm water. It was advised that boater funds should not be directed to storm run-off, as that road surface water was a DPW issue. Mr. Race suggested that going back to the original concept of a mobile, roll-out poly-based mat might still work over the accumulated sand. It was also suggested that a simple hardware store sign and post might be helpful to point out where the curbing meets the roadway.
7. **Maritime Center Peristaltic Pump:** Mr. Melo described the recently completed upgrade to the waste removal pump on the Maritime Center Dock. Completion was successful, done within the proposed budget and on time. The new section functions as it should. In response to volume, Mr. Melo reported that an average of 1,000 to 2,000 gallons of boat sewerage had been removed in the weeks since installation. He reported heavier than usual activity due to the lingering summer weather, and increased boating activity under Covid. Mr. Race noted questions from boaters regarding the lack of running fresh water due to the second break in the supply line. A design flaw in the dock floats causes abrasion of the rubber water line and could further damage sewer and electrical lines. A re-design or repair of the problem will be sought for future seasons. Mr. Hickey noted a conspicuous problem of excessive trash piled at the Maritime Center and around the Town barrels throughout the Village over the Labor Day weekend. Mr. Melo noted that trash removal was a DPW responsibility specified in the MOU under which the Maritime Center operated. He submitted photos of the problem by email, but was not surprised by the lack of response from Town Hall nor DPW.
8. The Waterways Commission was requested to advise upon a request by Mr. Lafauci for an extension of the two year use-or-lose provision in the mooring regulations. Due to Covid, Mr. Lafauci is seeking another season to replace his prior vessel of record for a north side mooring site. Mr. Race moved, and Mr. Murphy seconded a motion that advises compassion and understanding for all in a similar situation regarding mooring use at this time of pandemic. That was voted favorably and unanimously by roll call vote.
9. The next remote meeting was tentatively set for Tuesday October 20, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.