

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

JANUARY 18, 2011

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly called and held on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at 12 Rogers Street. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Joseph Hannon. The following people were present: Gerry Hickey, Roger Race, Warren Hathaway, Chris Hemingway, Michael Gill and Gerald Clark. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Hannon reviewed the agenda for the evening. Mr. Hannon asked to add the Shellfish Issues to the agenda. Mr. Hickey moved to accept the agenda with the change. Mr. Hemingway seconded. So. Moved.

The minutes of the meeting of December 14, 2010 were reviewed. Mr. Clark moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Hickey seconded. So Moved.

New Business

CLE Proposed Grid Layout. Ms. Susan Nilson was present to discuss the proposed grid layout for the harbor being done by CLE. She gave a handout to the WMC members explaining that she had adjusted the layout. She said that she has met with the Harbormaster and WMC to get input for the layout. She said that there would be two fairways as requested: one from the ramp to the bridge and the other from the bridge to the end of the mooring field. She said the mooring rows would be perpendicular to the fairway. There is a 0% overlap northern areas and a 40% overlap on the southern edge. She said that the overlaps could be adjusted later. She noted the depth of an area dictates the chain length; the vessels were laid out according to their depth requirements. According to this plan, they were able to get some people off the wait list. She noted that the inactive moorings were not put into the plan, their areas were used for wait list vessels; adding about 68 moorings, but this figure will be adjusted with the final plans. She will be working with the harbormaster on how to number the moorings. She said that a lot of small boat spaces were gained. Mr. Hathaway asked if everyone has moved. Ms. Nilson said that most were moved. Mr. Hathaway asked if they considered where the boater made access to the water. Ms. Nilson said yes. Mr. Melo agreed that they took that into consideration. Mr. Melo said that two-thirds of the boaters on the North side get access from the landing. Ms. Nilson said that numbering of the moorings is up to the WMC and Harbormaster. Mr. Hemingway asked how deep the thoroughfare is at the shallowest point. Ms. Nilson said 2-1/2 feet. Mr. Melo said that the larger boats always try to go out through the boats. Mr. Hickey said that the boaters should be notified that the thoroughfare is shallow in places. Mr. Melo said that they would like to put municipal moorings between the thoroughfare and the bridge. Ms. Nilson said we might have to move the thoroughfare to create this area. Mr. Melo said that boats are usually at the northern end of a swing circle. Mr. Melo said that if people want to anchor their boat in a storm, they can do so in the recreational area; he said that there is an open space outside the recreational area where they can anchor their boat for a concert, etc. Ms. Nilson said that the feedback at this meeting is good to start to finalize the plans. She said that she will use some of the open spaces to try and make a space for transients. Ms. Nilson said that she tried to take different size boats off the wait list. Ms. Nilson said that she used 5-foot increments in placing the boats to allow for upgrading the size of the boats. Mr. Hannon asked how many vessels will be in the regrid. Ms. Nilson said there are approximately 227 boats. Mr. Hickey said that in the regrid we will gain about 68 moorings. Ms. Nilson said that she has enough information to work with Mr. Melo revising the plan. Mr. Clark asked the cost of moving the moorings. Ms. Nilson said that Steve of Pioneer Moorings did New Bedford's regrid moves, but she can't quote a price but thinks it is in the hundreds. She said she recommends not assigning the wait list vessels until all the vessels are moved and the owners have time to determine their new locations, this will save some future problems; she said New Bedford's biggest problems were people not wanting to move. Mr. Hickey said that the Hingham regrid looks good. Mr. Melo said that time consuming job will be to determine where the people will be going. Ms. Nilson said to be cautious where moorings are located. Mr. Melo will have the final say on where moorings will be located and assigned. Ms. Nilson thanked the WMC for their time and said to e-mail any questions to her. Mr. Hickey said that we have to still have a public hearing on this when we have all the answers to questions.

Dartmouth Police Department Request for a Building. Mr. Melo said that Mr. Joseph Vieira, Safety Officer, called him about the building at the landing. He said they are looking for a building that can be put at the Water

Department on Allen Street to hold radio equipment. Mr. Melo said that since there was a dedication last summer at the landing he asked the family of Arthur Dias about moving the building; he said that they feel the building should stay because it is part of the dedicated facility. He said that he is looking into other available buildings and there is one shed behind the house at 12 Rogers Street that could be moved. He called Mr. Vieira and he stated he will take a look at the building. Mr. Melo said that the two sheds came with the house and one is being used to store Shellfish equipment. He said it is in good shape and he has no immediate use for it. Mr. Gill said that he is not sure that the Rogers Street Shed will be good enough since it is an older one. Mr. Hickey said that there is a Town process that you have to go through to dispose of surplus equipment. Mr. Melo said if the Police do not want the shed we should keep it where it is. Mr. Hickey moved to postpone this issue to the next meeting. Mr. Clark seconded. So Moved.

Waterways Rates. Mr. Melo distributed a list of the present fees of the Waterways Division. Mr. Hannon said that we would like to keep the rates the same. Mr. Melo said that he will be sending out the bills and he has to have a final decision now. Mr. Hemingway said that he received a few calls about the late fee amount. Mr. Melo said that we have 20-30 people paying late fees every year, regardless of the amount. Mr. Race moved to keep the rates the same as last year. Mr. Hickey seconded. So Moved.

Grant Filing. Mr. Melo said that the Town filed for two waterways grants. He said that the grants would help with the run-off on Rogers Street; and also help with the pump-out dock. He has received notification that the State has received the applications and we should wait to hear from CZM.

Mooring 81-03. Mr. Melo said that the owner of the mooring has been arrested for drug smuggling. He said that this mooring is beyond the breakwater. Mr. Melo said that the by-law review committee might look into some by-laws regarding illegal uses of a mooring. Mr. Clark said we should wait and see what happens with the case.

Rogers Street Update. Mr. Melo said we are still looking at gates, lighting, signs and security cameras. Mr. Race said that the gates will be approximately \$3,000. Mr. Hickey said that we should be ready when we receive DEP approval to use the property. Mr. Race suggested to have GM Welding build the third gate for the property and install it. Mr. Hickey moved to award this. Mr. Hemingway seconded. So Moved. Mr. Melo said that the cameras should be postponed to the next meeting when Mr. Julian Race can be present to discuss this issue. Mr. Hannon also postponed the issue of lights at the Rogers Street Site to the next meeting when we will have more information from Town Hall on this. Mr. Melo said that security is an important issue since the Commission told the neighbors that this area will be more secure. Mr. Melo asked if there is enough money left in the CPC grant to finish this area.

North Side Mooring Regrid. Mr. Race said that we should call the mooring companies in and speak with them and get a cost of moving the moorings. Mr. Hemingway said that Pioneer Mooring Company is not busy now. Mr. Melo said that we need to show them the finished engineering plans and ask what their cost will be. Mr. Hickey said that we should assign the mooring spaces. Mr. Hannon suggested borrowing the money through a Bond and paying it back. Mr. Hathaway suggested having the mooring owners pay a portion of the cost. Mr. Hannon feels we should pay the whole cost. Mr. Clark suggested calling it a Mooring Field Improvement cost and having a fee for maintaining it. Mr. Hickey said that we have discussed this every year and he would like to see this project started. Mr. Melo asked who should get the Submeter GPS so the same system can be used for all the moorings. Mr. Hathaway feels we should use the local mooring companies since they know the harbor. Mr. Melo said that the by-laws require only authorized licensed mooring companies work in Dartmouth waters. Mr. Hickey said that this has to be done in the fall or spring, the summer is too busy. Mr. Hickey said that we have to have a plan before the next meeting and know where the moorings will be and the costs before a public hearing.

Waterways By-Law Subcommittee. Mr. Hannon said that the subcommittee meet today and are discussing repealing existing regulations and having new regulations. He said they are discussing updated fines; and looking into having a Non-Criminal citation for any appeals. Mr. Hannon said that they would like a formal link between the Waterways Management Commission and the Waterways Division; one way is to make Mr. Melo an ex-officio member of the WMC. Mr. Hannon said that the Town is looking into revising all the Town By-laws and they have an intern looking into them. Mr. Melo said that Town set the waterways fees in 1989 and gave the

WMC authority to regulate the fees. He also said that the initial appointments to the WMC were made by the Select Board. Mr. Melo would like to see the income generated from the waterways fines to be credited to the Waterways Enterprise Fund.

Harbormaster Report.

Budget Update. Mr. Melo gave a copy of the budget to the WMC noting that not much revenue shows at this time of the year.

Mooring Assignments. Mr. Melo stated that he and Ms. Lisa Litos have been working on the mooring assignments. He said that they are working on the South side only. Mr. Gill suggested if we do not regrid until the fall we should also consider assigning moorings on the north side.

Vehicle /Vessel Update. Mr. Melo said he is working with Mr. David Cressman on disposing of the Shellfish/oil boom Van. He said it will be offered to other departments in the Town. Mr. Melo said that they went out to bid to move the boat that is in New York and bring it here. The lowest bidder would get the necessary permits, schedule with New York and have it delivered to our door. He said that a driver went to New York and the boat was snowed in and couldn't be picked up. He said he spoke with the State and they will try to hold it until the snow melts. Mr. Gill asked what present vessel the new one will replace. Mr. Melo was not sure; he will consider that only after the new boat is in hand. Mr. Gill wants to give a boat to the police department.

State-Mandated Harbormaster Training. Mr. Melo said the Training course he has been directed to attend is still on schedule. Ms. Litos will not be able to attend. He said that he will be the one able to attend as directed by Mr. Cressman and the Commission.

Public Comment.

Mr. John Meldon was present. He stated he submitted a letter to Mr. Melo regarding keeping his mooring. Mr. Melo said that Ms. Litos responded to his request. Mr. Melo explained that Mr. Meldon has a large boat that hasn't been on his mooring for almost two calendar years. He said that the boat had extensive termite damage and had to be repaired and if the boat is on the mooring by June 15th he will be fine under the regulations. If that is not done, the Commission would likely hear an appeal at that time.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira