

## MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

JUNE 11, 2013

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly called and held on Tuesday, June 11, 2013 at 7:03 p.m. at Dartmouth Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Roger Race. The following people were present: Gerald Hickey, Michael Gill, Joseph Hannon and Gerald Clark. Excused were Chris Hemingway and Warren Hathaway. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Race reviewed the agenda with one change to take CBC negotiations out of order since Mr. Andrew Herlihy of CBC is present. Mr. Hickey moved to accept the agenda with this change. Mr. Clark seconded. So Moved.

Mr. Race review the minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2013. Mr. Hannon moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Gill seconded. So Moved.

### CBC negotiations for the use of Rogers Street facility.

Mr. Andrew Herlihy was present. He explained that CBC was founded by a New Bedford social worker for the purpose of enhancing children's lives; he said that they use boating to help children. He said that 70% of the children attend free of charge; 20% of the enrollment is from Dartmouth of which approximately 13% are free of charge. He said that he was program director from 2001-2002 and he is returning to the position. They do sailing programs for Stang and U-Mass Dartmouth and also the New Bedford charter schools. They are working to clean up the neighborhood and will be finishing the dock project tomorrow. Mr. Herlihy said that they would want to use the parking lot to keep people off the street; he would like to use it on a day-to-day basis. He said that they would like to take care of the Rogers St. property by maintaining the grass area.

Mr. Herlihy said that when they have a regatta they will need more spaces and will make the space fee part of the registration fees. Mr. Race said that the spaces overlooking the water should be kept open for the public. Mr. Herlihy said that spring is the busiest time for them and that is the off-season for the Town to use the area. Mr. Herlihy said he isn't sure they will have a regatta this year. Mr. Melo said that the Buzzards Bay Regatta is getting too big for the harbor and Rogers Street could be a good back-up area for some smaller classes. Mr. Hickey asked if the area could be shut down for the regattas for the safety of the people. Mr. Gill said that it would have to be approved by the Chief of Police. Mr. Race said that the blacktop in the parking area cannot be punctured; but the grass can be used for a tent or canopy. Mr. Herlihy said that in the spring there are about 20 cars in the parking area, in the summer maybe ten cars. Mr. Melo said that if people park there, they pay the parking fee set by the Select Board. Mr. Herlihy said that they pay the City of New Bedford \$300.00 monthly to use Fort Tabor and it includes 10 parking spaces and an area to store their boats. He said that Stang and U-Mass pay a nominal fee to use the facility; Dartmouth goes through the New Bedford Yacht Club. Mr. Melo said that the Dias landing has a \$35.00 annual fee for parking. Mr. Hannon brought up the question if there is a statute regarding fees being charged for recreational uses. Mr. Hickey suggested a blanket fee for using the area. Mr. Race said that having cars there can decrease the potential for vandalism. Mr. Race said that the WMC will write a proposal with Mr. Herlihy of CBC to submit to the Select Board. Mr. Gill moved to issue a commercial permit of up to 25 cars for a \$300.00 fee including maintenance and clean-up of the area; he said to extend the permit to 12/15/13 to cover any winter sailing. Mr. Hickey seconded. So Moved; all in favor. Mr. Race said that the permit proposal will be forwarded to Mr. David Cressman for approval.

### New Business.

Questions to Town Treasurer. Mr. Race said that he hasn't received any answers to the questions for the Town Treasurer. He will send him an e-mail.

2014 Waterways Rates. Mr. Race said that he is waiting for the answers from the Town Treasurer before reviewing the waterways rates. He said that the FY 14 budget was done on the existing rates.

Internship Request from NB Vocational School. Mr. Melo said that retired Sgt. Cotta has asked him if he would like an intern to follow aid him. He feels that an intern could be a help during the busy summer season which is over by the time the internships begin. Mr. Hickey asked if the intern could help assist Lisa in the office during the school season. Mr. Melo feels that this would be difficult since she works only three days, and the intern

would need to be there for five. He also pointed out that he will be away from the office for mandatory training obligations for specific weeks in the fall and spring. Michael Gill stated that it would not work for the harbormaster office based upon his experience with similar internships through the police department. Mr. Race said that accepting an intern is not a good alternative for the HM office.

4 Water Street For Sale. Mr. Hickey said that the house at 4 Water Street is for sale at \$1.2 million. Mr. Race said that we do not own any waterfront property and it might be a good investment that could provide dock space for the Town. Mr. Melo said that Mr. Cressman mentioned this listing to him and asked if it could also be used by other Town Departments. Mr. Hickey said that he will look into this.

DPW Building Use. Mr. Melo said that Mr. David Hickox met with him and Mr. Tim Lancaster regarding use of the existing front building after the new Highway Garage is built. He said that it is a good building to work in but moving his office to the building wouldn't be a good idea, he needs to be on the waterfront. Mr. Hannon said that if the Park Department moves from Bridge Street that former fire building would be good for Waterways. Mr. Melo said that the Fire Department would likely re-claim it.

Dias Landing Pier Repair. Mr. Melo said that the Engineering Consultants said that the pier it is safe to use. Mr. Melo said that the low bidder was for \$21,000.00 and it has to be approved at Town Meeting; plus the \$1,600. fee for the engineering services. Mr. Melo said that Mr. Cressman would like to shut the dock down to be repaired as soon as possible. He said that the low bidder presented the bid to be done off season and not during the busy season; the low bidder would like to do it in October and it would be about a week to do the job. Mr. Race said that we cannot shut down the pier and launching operations for a week during the short boating season. Mr. Hickey moved to have the work done in October. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. So Moved to have the work done in October.

Short & Long Range Planning Topics. Mr. Hickey said that in the past the WMC has made a short and long term goal planning list. Mr. Race said to table this and for the members to think about any goals and at the next meeting we would make the lists.

#### Harbormaster Report.

BY 2013 Budget Review. Mr. Melo said that our revenue is ahead of last year's revenue. He said that there is a new 72' boat that alone will bring a waterways fee of approximately \$592.00.

Pump-Out Boat. Mr. Melo said that the new pump out boat is ordered and being made. He said that it is a dedicated environmental pump-out boat that will also serve as a patrol boat. It is fully paid with grant funds.

Mooring Update. Mr. Melo said that there are 59 sites currently being offered and 29 have been accepted. He said he is finding that many boaters now have a different boat than they were on the mooring list. He said that there are 232 people left on the wait list, down from 390 a few years ago. Mr. Hickey suggested sending a letter to Mr. Cressman and the Select Board highlighting the success regarding the waiting list.

Truck Order. Mr. Melo said that he will be working on a truck order after July 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be a 4-door pickup truck with hauling capabilities. Mr. Melo said that the former military Blazer and pick-up truck will be taken off inventory pursuant to the wishes of the town. He said that the Humvee will continue in use for remote areas.

Village Floats. Mr. Melo said that they will be getting a grant for a gangway. He said they are looking into an aluminum ramp. He said that he has to get approval on the spot where he would like it to go.

Rogers St. House. Mr. Melo said that Mr. Cressman is asking him about a fence around the house at Rogers St. He has spoken to fence companies about fences that do not go into the ground. Mr. Race said that he hasn't received any feedback from the Town Hall. Mr. Melo said that this is being handled by Ms. Deborah Wender. Mr. Race feels that 6" of dirt covering the ground would do the job. Mr. Race said that he will get in touch with Mr. Cressman or Ms. Wender about this.

Nolan Waterfront Property. Mr. Hannon asked about the meeting held with Mr. David Nolan. Mr. Race said that Mr. Nolan described his plans at a televised public meeting. Mr. Melo said that Mr. Cressman wanted the WMC to weigh-in on this project before any recommendation is made before the planning board. Mr. Race said that it was the first public showing of the plans for the area. He reminded all that Mr. Nolan and his team were supposed to submit revised plans, but none had been received by WMC yet. Mr. Melo said that Mr. Nolan has also met with the New Bedford Yacht Club and Department Heads other than himself. Mr. Hannon said that Mr. Nolan will do what he can lawfully do, but there may be Chapter 91 issues. Mr. Race feels that he will do away with the boatyard entirely. Mr. Hannon said that the Planning Board hasn't seen any final plans either. Mr. Race said that the WMC could go to the Planning Board Meeting when it is held. Mr. Melo added that the Sail Loft restaurant has reportedly been recently sold out to another owner.

Ambar Boat. Mr. Melo said that he will have a survey done on the boat and if it is still useful. He said that if the hull is fine and he can paint it, he will keep using it. He said he has been using it since 2006 and is looking for a replacement. Mr. Hannon asked about the Harbormaster Association getting a shared 41' vessel. Mr. Melo said that we will be using it as needed, especially for the BBR regatta this summer. He said that it is available for free to member towns as needed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2013.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Vieira