

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

JUNE 26, 2012

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly called and held on Tuesday, June 26, 2012 at 7:04 p.m. at Dartmouth Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Gerald Clark. The following people were present: Chris Hemingway, Joseph Hannon, Roger Race, and Gerald Hickey. Excused were Michael Gill and Warren Hathaway. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster, and Mr. David Cressman, Executive Administrator.

Mr. Clark reviewed the agenda for the evening. Mr. Hickey would like to add a special thank you to Mr. Warren Hathaway for all the years spent heading the Dartmouth High Sailing Club and a review of the Waterways Town Meeting article. Mr. Hannon moved and Mr. Hemingway seconded to accept the agenda with the additions.

The minutes of the meeting of March 26, 2012 were reviewed. Mr. Hemingway moved to accept the minutes. Mr. Hickey seconded. So Moved.

Old Business.

Rogers Street Opening Ceremony. Mr. Melo said that he and Mr. Race attended a meeting with the Community Preservation Commission and answered questions regarding public access at Rogers Street. He said that signs were suggested to announce the area and who was involved in making the area useable. Mr. Melo said that it was suggested that they have some publicity regarding the area and when it will be open to the public for use. He suggested a ribbon cutting with local press coverage. Mr. Melo said that launch access is limited in the area. Mr. Hickey said that he has seen boats launched from Rogers Street. He said that he has seen a rock at low tide that might hinder launching. He said that people are parking in the streets since they would have to pay to park in our lot. He feels we should celebrate that we took a bad area and made it into a fine parking/access area. He said that he has pictures from beginning to the finish project. Mr. Race said that people have told him how much they like the area. Mr. Hickey said that the main project there was to get more access to the water and it was accomplished. He said that Community Boating doesn't want to pay to use the parking area, they park in the streets and it creates a problem with the neighbors. Mr. Hickey said that he would like to see the area used; he said that people have to pay to park and launch anywhere they go. Mr. Melo said that Community Boating has some access to Fort Rodman. Mr. Hickey feels that we should be able to work something out with them. Mr. Race feels that CBC is hostile to us when we try to negotiate with them; they want to use the area at low or no cost. He said that there are a lot of children in their programs. Mr. Hannon asked about any conservation restrictions on the area. Mr. Melo said that there was a use restriction put on the area by the DEP. Mr. Hemingway asked if the spaces facing the water have to be reserved for public access according the CPC grant. Mr. Hickey agrees that anyone renting the area have to leave some spaces for public access. Mr. Race said that CPC should get credit for their help at the opening ceremonies. Mr. Hannon suggested inviting all the parties that helped clean up the area to the opening ceremonies and to have it televised on local television, showing pictures of before and after. Mr. Cressman said that the opening of Cushman Park was done on a Thursday evening and was well attended. Mr. Hickey said he will help Mr. Melo set it up.

12 Rogers Street House. Mr. Melo said that the house was broken into; but the items taken were recovered. He has fixed and reinforced the outer door. The cameras were working and the thief's were caught after they set off an alarm; the New Bedford police caught them running away. Mr. Hannon said that the lot the house is on is not affected by the restrictions on the parking area. Mr. Clark suggested making it low income housing and use it to help defray the mortgage cost to the Department. Mr. Hickey said that there may be mildew and lead paint issues in the house. He said that it is waterfront property and grandfathered for a house with no pilings. Mr. Cressman said that the Waterways Commission should suggest to the Select Board on potential use of the house. He said that it didn't work out for an agreement with CBC or U-Mass Dartmouth. Mr. Clark said that the WMC will write a letter to the Select Board regarding potential use of the house. Mr. Cressman suggested getting some realty groups involved in this. Mr. Cressman said that the septic system is a problem in selling the house. Mr. Clark said that the WMC will draft a letter to the Select Board.

North Side Re-Grid Update. Mr. Melo said that the project is 99% done with only some final adjustments to be done under contract. He said that some mooring sets were pulled to near the causeway; they are abandoned and put there to decide what to do with them. He said that many complaints came in the beginning; he researched them and in the end people seemed to want to stay in the new spot. He said that 60 plus moorings were added to the mooring field. Mr. Melo said that it takes 10-12 communications between parties to assign a new mooring. He said that it is 50/50 ratio that people are accepting the new moorings, after two refuses they go to the bottom of the list. Mr. Melo said that he will eventually be making swaps of moorings for people at their expense. He said that the Regrid plan seems to be working as predicted. Mr. Clark suggested a press release for the regrid. Mr. Cressman suggested focusing on the public moorings in the press release. Mr. Melo said that two of the six moorings are ready for use. Mr. Melo said that if he notices boaters using the transient moorings past their welcome, he will devise a plan for limiting use or removal of boats.

Harbormaster Report.

FY 2012 Budget. Mr. Melo handed out a budget recap thru the end of May. He said that revenue is slightly below last year. He said that he has received a reimbursement from FEMA for funds spent during tropical storm Irene. Mr. Melo said that fine revenues are down. The waterways fines go into the General Fund with a possible transfer back at town meeting. Mr. Melo said that the new mooring site revenues are not included in the prior year budget. Mr. Melo said that it should take up to 7 years for the regrid to pay for itself. Mr. Hickey said that people seem to be happy with their new moorings and are looking for a boat to put on it; they have two years to get a boat. Mr. Melo said that he is working within the budget, but the economy has impacted boaters. Mr. Melo said that he cannot change any rates until the end of the year; but the rates have not been changed in three years.

Mr. Melo said that Lisa has been working more hours and would like to receive Town benefits. He is looking into having Shellfish Budget help pay for her benefit package because she is also working for shellfish. He also said that the DTEA union covers this job if it becomes full time. Mr. Race said that Lisa is doing her job well and we should look into making her full time. Mr. Melo said that she is working two jobs within the department; clerical and assistant harbormaster. Mr. Hickey said it was discussed before to hire Assistant Harbormasters with different expertise. He said that Tyler Gomes and Shawn Rainer have returned this season. Mr. Melo said that he will be out of town for the last week of July. Mr. Melo said that the Town overhead will be approximately \$38,400 for F/Y 2013.

Waterways Overhaul. Mr. Hickey asked where the WMC stands now. Mr. Melo said that Article #34 passed at the Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Melo said that the first Waterways Enterprise included the Harbormaster and Shellfish but the Shellfish was removed in 1993. He said that the Attorney General has 90 days to respond to the Article.

Mr. Warren Hathaway. Mr. Hickey stated that Mr. Hathaway has retired as leader of the Dartmouth High Sailing Club. He said that Mr. Hathaway was instrumental at DHS in creating this program. He said that many students have been in this club and has gone on to become great sailors. He said that Mr. Hathaway was also involved in programs at the New Bedford Yacht Club and Bishop Stang High School. He said that the WMC would like to commend Mr. Hathaway and acknowledge his involvement in these great programs. Mr. Hannon suggests notifying the Select Board of Mr. Hathaway's accomplishment. Mr. Hannon moved that the WMC send a letter to the Select Board on Mr. Hathaway's accomplishments. Mr. Race seconded. So Moved.

Public Comment. None.

Mr. Clark said that the next meeting will be the Rogers Street opening ceremony. The next public meeting will be announced at a later date.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane L. Vieira.