

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

July 16, 2015

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly called and held on Thursday, July 16, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at Dartmouth Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Gerald Hickey. The following people were also present: Roger Race, Joseph Hannon, and Gerard Clark. Mr. Warren Hathaway was excused to celebrate his 32nd wedding anniversary. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Hickey reviewed the agenda. Mr. Race moved to accept the agenda. Mr. Hannon seconded. So Moved.

Mr. Hickey reviewed the minutes of the meeting of May 7, 2015, as presented. Mr. Clark moved to accept the minutes without change. Mr. Hannon seconded. So Moved.

New Business.

2024 Olympic Possibility: Discussions were had regarding publicized possibility of 2024 Olympic sailing events being held in local waters. Mr. Hannon notes that qualifying rounds and pre-Olympic practice events will extend the events in time and area. Mr. Race agreed that qualifying rounds could attract far more participants than actual Olympic events. It was agreed generally that the Commission would go on the record as endorsing sailing events in our area and stand ready to assist local Olympic efforts in any way possible, including a possible press release to that effect in the future.

South Side Mooring Re-grid: Discussions had to begin exploration of the efficiency, need for, and advisability of undertaking a complete re-grid of the outer harbor (south side) mooring field. The Commission reviewed the published RFP (request for proposals) that began the north side re-grid in 2010. Mr. Hannon was not in favor of publishing an RFP for engineering or engineer study yet. He questioned the ability to add any significant number of moorings on the southern side, and expects that it would take a significantly more expensive engineering and relocation process for such a larger area with more moorings. Mr. Hickey points out that the north side project was successful and now the public expects a similar process, or at least consideration of the same for the south side. Mr. Hannon would prefer to let the Harbormaster make mooring moves and assignments/re-assignments without the need for engineering costs and wholesale gear movements. Mr. Race suggested doing an engineering RFP for production and presentation of a benefit analysis, comparison of potential mooring site increases versus overall cost for a complete project, perhaps with even budget estimation for a complete project. Mr. Hannon doubts the benefit in additional mooring numbers will outweigh the anticipated aggravation, public resistance to the changes, as well as the substantial costs. Mr. Hickey thinks we should move forward with what would be called a "Phase I Study" of the process. Mr. Melo noted that New Bedford Harbor undertook a complete mooring re-grid and re-assignment/re-alignment. After more discussion, Roger Race was tasked with asking Susan Nilson of CLE Engineering to schedule a presentation on the scope of services needed and costs likely to be anticipated for any improvements to the south side harbor mooring field. Mr. Race will ask Ms. Nilson to address a future meeting of the Commission for guidance and suggestions as a first step in this possible process.

2016 Waterways Rates: The Waterways Commission considered the 2016 boating rates needed to support the Waterways Enterprise with the added Deputy Assistant Harbormaster Position. Mr. Hickey noted that the proposed rates (of \$60 individual/ \$120 commercial mooring permits, along with waterways use boat fees of \$4/foot for residents and \$9/foot for non-residents; \$10 daily launch pass/\$60 season permit; and \$15/Shore, \$50 Reserved rack dinghy permits) were endorsed by the Town Treasurer as needed to meet the complete 2016 fiscal year expenses. Roger Race moved, and Gerard Clark seconded to accept and advise institution of those rates for the 2016 boating season. Unanimously adopted to advise Harbormaster to adopt those suggested rates.

Purchase of New Bedford Police Whaler: On the possibility to purchase the 5 year old Boston Whaler currently in use by the New Bedford Police Marine Unit, expected to be offered for sale as surplus: Mr. Race moved and Mr. Clark seconded to continue exploring purchase to replace the Department's current Ambar rescue boat with a vessel that has a cabin for winter weather safety. All voted unanimously to continue.

On Posting for hiring full-time, year-round Deputy Assistant Harbormaster: Roger Race moved, and Gerard Clark seconded, followed by a unanimous vote to advise immediate posting for the much-needed position. Mr. Hickey proposed development of an acceptable process for screening and hiring a person for that position.

Regarding possible purchase of an available waterfront property: Mr. Melo reported the anticipated debt service obligation that would result from bonding for this purchase, as prepared by Town Treasurer Barnes, would be in excess of \$68,000 per year for 20 years. It was noted that maintenance, insurance, utilities and renovations would significantly add to that amount. The Commission unanimously supported that no further action be taken regarding this particular real estate opportunity based upon the impact those annual expenses would have on boater fees. Mr. Hannon wants to begin actively exploring a purpose-built structure over the rip-rap on the northeast side of the Padanaram Bridge, near the existing pump-out dock. This idea was unanimously supported.

Public Comment: None.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday September 17, 2015 at 7:00 pm in Town Hall.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven Melo, Harbormaster