

MINUTES OF WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2013

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly called and held on Tuesday, September 24, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. at Dartmouth Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Roger Race. The following people were present: Gerald Hickey, Joseph Hannon, Warren Hathaway and Gerald Clark. Excused were Chris Hemingway and Michael Gill. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

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

Mr. Race reviewed the minutes of the meeting of June 11, 2013. Mr. Hannan corrected the spelling on statute in the fourth paragraph on the first page. Mr. Clark moved to accept the minutes with the change. Mr. Hickey seconded. So Moved. Mr. Hannan said that he sent the members some information on the recreational use statute in regards to Rogers Street liability. He said that Town Counsel should check it out. He said that if someone is hurt or something goes wrong there may be a question of liability if we charge for the recreational use of the area ; if we do not charge for the use of the area we may be exempt from responsibility. He said it depends on what we are charging for. Mr. Race feels that we are just charging for the parking area. Mr. Clark also mentioned that in regard to the Nolan property, the WMC never really took a stand on it. He feels it should go on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss this. Mr. Clark said that he feels we should go on record as opposed to it. Mr. Hathaway said that the NBYC as not heard anything on the revised plans. Mr. Race said that the plans were only preliminary and we haven't seen any revised plans. Mr. Race said that he will send Mr. Nolan an e-mail to submit a final plan so that the WMC can review it. Mr. Clark said that we can go on record as being opposed to the original plans. Mr. Hickey asked if we should ask Town Counsel before going on record with a vote.

New Business.

Four Water Street. Mr. Melo said that Mr. Cressman has asked him about the WMC position regarding the property at 4 Water Street. Mr. Melo said that members of the WMC toured the house. Mr. Hickey said that he spoke with the realtor of the property regarding the price and was told to make an offer. Mr. Race said that he would like to have the Town purchase property on the water with a dock. Mr. Hathaway said that the house needs major repairs and is a small and close to the bridge. Mr. Melo said that there are some people that would like to see the Town purchase the property, but Mr. Melo said that the house is on very wet ground. Mr. Hathaway said that he would like to see the Town have a Marina with parking, but the Water Street home has little parking. Mr. Hickey feels the expenses associated with the house are too large, including flood insurance, etc. Mr. Race would like to put this on hold for now. Mr. Clark feels that the WMC should look into getting the Harbormaster better office space. Mr. Melo wants to stay on the waterfront, where the office has a view of the harbor and approach.

Waterways Rates. Mr. Melo said that he has to know what to charge the boaters for next season. Mr. Race feels the mooring permits should be raised by \$5.00 to \$50.00 for an individual and \$10.00 to \$100.00 for commercial; the Waterways Use permit to \$3.50 for residents and \$7.70 for non-residents. The dinghy racks would remain the same. The Dias Landing Launch/Parking: the calendar day stay at \$5.00 and the seasonal increase to \$50.00. Mr. Melo said that he researched other Towns and we are in the middle range of the fees. Mr. Melo said that Mr. Cressman and Mr. Barnes feel that the rates should be raised, they have been unchanged for 5 years. Mr. Race said that the Town Hall overhead charges are increased yearly and our rates should increase to reflect their changes. Mr. Clark moved to accept the rate increases as stated by Mr. Race. Mr. Hathaway seconded. So Moved. Mr. Melo said that the Waterways will be sharing a building at the DPW yard with Park and DCTV and that we may end up paying for that building somehow. Mr. Race said that he will look into rates at the boatyards as comparisons. At the end of the meeting Mr. Hannon said that he didn't feel that the rates needed to be raised. Mr. Race explained that the overhead rates are increasing and town hall wanted even more.

New Pump-out Boat. Mr. Melo said that it's a new boat paid for through the Clean Vessel Act. He said that it is a good boat and will be a good addition to the department. Mr. Hathaway said that all people in the harbor see the boat; it's a beautiful pump out boat. Mr. Race asked if the boat as a name. Mr. Melo said that he has never named his boats. Mr. Melo said that he added a salt-water wash-down hose down to the new boat. He would like to use this as a patrol boat also, allowing him to be able to pump out boats as he patrols the harbor. He said that he will be adding lights to the boat to make it a better patrol boat. Mr. Race suggested putting the story of the boat on the website to inform the public of this boat. The Chronicle story covered it well. Mr. Melo said that all towns through the Cape & Island Harbormaster Association are using the 41' CG boat; it is in Dartmouth until another Town needs it. It belongs to the Association, not the Town.

Ambar Repair. Mr. Melo said that this was a free surplus boat. The hull has no corrosion on it and is sound. It needs a fabric collar for \$12,000 but is unsure if that would be a good investment. Mr. Melo said that he prefers to get another surplus boat from the Federal Government, if available, and is working on that. He said that if we get a newer surplus rescue/patrol boat before spring, we will not need to replace the Ambar collar.

Dias Landing Pier Repairs. Mr. Melo said that the repair will be done after October. Mr. Melo said that the Public Access Board has the ramp rebuild on the docket for next spring, it should take about three weeks to complete the job. Mr. Melo said that the Dartmouth 350 Celebration is set for fireworks at the waterfront on June 8, 2013. He will be informing the Public Access Board of this important date, but fears Murphy's Law.

Municipal Mini Marina. Mr. Melo said that we would like to start planning for a small Town marina off the Dias Landing. He said that he doesn't have the engineering expertise to do this. Mr. Melo said that there is a big demand for slip space.

Pump-Out Dock. Mr. Melo said that we have \$7,550 from Nonquitt for displaced access near their beach. He said they gave money equivalent to an aluminum ramp installation going to the current pump-out dock. He said in the future we can put a 'T' at the head of the dock.

Harbormaster Report

Budget. Mr. Melo said that the budget looks good. He said that in FY 2013 he spent less than he took in. He said that the balance in Retained Earnings is \$42,206.00. In addition to this amount there are monies that are earmarked for waterways projects. Mr. Race asked about using some money to update the landing for the 350th Town celebration. Mr. Hickey suggested working with the Park Department to beautify the whole area. He said that the Bucket food concession at the beach is having a good season and they would also like to see some beautification and opening of the area. Mr. Race said that he will contact the Park Board Chairman regarding the area with a copy to Mr. Cressman and the Select Board.

Harbormaster Contract Update. Mr. Melo said that he received a 1.5% COLA increase for the Harbormaster contract, same as most, but not all management positions in Town. He said that he doesn't have a valid contract right now. If the Town wants him to take over the Shellfish responsibilities, he is seeing half of the prior shellfish constable salary, approximately \$12,000.

Old Business.

Rogers Street. Mr. Melo said that CBC is using Rogers Street. Mr. Clark feels that the Town has to be careful regarding recreational use of the area. Mr. Race said that we charge for the parking only. Mr. Melo said that the Town charges for beach and park parking. Mr. Race said that he and Mr. Melo will work on a contract for parking for the CBC staff only. Mr. Melo said that it should be looked at for the next calendar as well as the prior season. Mr. Melo said that a chain link fence will be put up to keep people from digging up the dirt in the yard around the house. Mr. Melo would like to tie it into the present chain link fence. Mr. Hickey would like an assessment from CBC on how they would like to use the property and look into a contract for the coming year. Mr. Melo would like to see the BBR make some use Rogers Street also. Mr. Hickey said that he would like the Town to promote the BBR since there are people from all over the country and overseas. Mr. Melo said that the harbor and landing are very busy during the BBR. Mr. Hickey said that some competitors would like to stay in town, there should be more information available regarding accommodations around Town. He also feels there should be more food services available in the area. Mr. Hathaway feels there are about 3,000 people directly involved with BBR.

Public Comment. None.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2013 (with the Park Board) at the Town Hall.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane L. Vieira