

**MINUTES OF THE WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING**  
**Tuesday April 26, 2022 - 4:00 p.m. Zoom Remote meeting**

**DCTV Archive: <http://dctv-18.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/7870?channel=2>**

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2022. This meeting was held remotely through zoom under the Governor's COVID-19 allowances for public gatherings.

1. The meeting was initially called to order by Vice Chairman Race as Chairman Hickey worked out computer connections. Present and participating were Commission members: Gerald Hickey (joining after the minutes were accepted), Roger Race, Andy Herlihy, Kevin Murphy, Patricia Sweriduk, and T.J. Salvidio.
2. The **minutes** of the last meeting, 4/12/22 were reviewed and discussed. It was moved by Patty Sweriduk and seconded by TJ Salvidio to accept and post the minutes as presented .
3. **Municipal Marina Project Design/Engineering Project:** Mr. Melo gave an update on the engineering process for the Dias Landing small boat marina and relayed the proposed timeline for completion of this phase of the proposed project. At the behest of the Town Administrator, Foth is including a line item for addressing parking sufficiency at the existing parking lot and nearby overflow area. Foth is still convinced that this design/engineering portion of the process will be sufficiently complete to allow for submission of a May SEC construction grant.
5. Mrs. Sweriduk gave an update on the progress of **the Harbor Management Plan Implementation Committee**. She described her presentation and update to the Select Board at their previous night's meeting. She told the Board that the Town has a parking problem in Padanaram Village and at the Dias Landing which Foth has dedicated \$75,000 in project funds to addressing, but the Board admitted there was no obvious solution. She believes there is commitment to address the issue and Select Board member Tatelbaum is following closely and is supportive. The use of the Maritime Center for an educational component in a coastal resiliency grant application for approximately \$300K was described again. Collaborative alliances with regional groups were described for the grant to be submitted by this coming Friday. The NOAA economic analysis project was described, and Dartmouth is one of three local communities to be invited to present at a conference in Boston this summer. The streamlining and vision development for small docks and piers subgroup is formed with a first meeting scheduled next month. Mrs. Sweriduk described strong support for her group from T.A. MacInnes and Cody Haddad, with strong reviews from the Select Board Chair. Mr. Race noted the model of collaboration praised by the Select Board and being looked at as a model for other Town entities. She received a note of encouragement from T.A. MacInnes regarding the teamwork exhibited. The process is shattering the individual silos and walls built around several Town Departments.
6. Mr. Melo gave a **mooring permit renewal process recap**. He reviewed the reminders sent prior to the close of regular registration and how those were received by boaters, the high demand for assignments and changes in mooring permits. Not all boaters who received the attempted reminders were positive in their replies. There were approximately 100 +/- permit holders who failed to heed the long-regulated renewal deadline. Permits are being mailed out in late May to avoid loss/misplacement. Mooring assignments are trudging along with the usual frustrations, but he is following established procedures.
7. **Rogers Street update** provided by Mr. Melo. He replaced the septic tank cover on the day he was provided notice of the missing cover. The Health Department is requiring that septic tank be pumped out and permanently filled with sand to terminate septic service. The Town Water Department responded and turned off the water service by removing the water meeting.

8. **Bridge Fishing** issue was raised unexpectedly at the Select Board's prior night meeting. Mr. Melo described the process of that Board meeting. He has been requested to provide a memo of issues regarding resumption of bridge fishing activity prohibited during covid. The Harbormaster and staff have no legal authority over fin-fishing activities nor over the pedestrian walkway. It was suggested that the fishing pier proposal be re-submitted for the best solution to the fishing/pedestrian conflict. Mr. Race volunteered to confirm that the Dartmouth proposal is still waiting for State action. Mr. Hickey wanted to stress that the Waterways Commission and Department have no authority or business in this bridge discussion. Mr. Hickey relayed the major safety issue with fishing hooks and weights targeting their vessels as they pass through the bridge. Mr. Race will explain the dangers to the Select Board. Mr. Salvidio cited that the bridge passages are federal navigable waters and must remain safely passable. He believes that the Select Board owns the problem and needs to protect pedestrians and boaters from these known hazards. Mr. Murphy wants to set a later-night time allowance for the tradition to be allowed. Mr. Hickey asked Mr. Melo to pass along the sentiment of the Commission as expressed at this meeting. Mr. Hickey explained the known paradox of fishermen thinking that the "best fishing spot" must be exactly where the "No Fishing" signs are posted. The Commission unanimously supports the premise that the Waterways Department has no business enforcing DPW or Town fishing regulations on the bridge. They will support the use of boater fees for the service of boaters and addressing boater needs. Bridge fishing is not part of the enterprise fund purposes set up by the Town and distracts staff from user-fee supported services.

8. **Public Comment:** No public comment offered.

9. The next meeting is set for 5/24/2022 at 4:00 p.m. by zoom/remote.

**The meeting was adjourned by unanimous roll call vote at 4:43 p.m.**