

MINUTES OF THE WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, January 15, 2019 - 5:30 p.m. Room 315 Dartmouth Town Hall

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 315 of Dartmouth Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Gerald Hickey. Present were members: Roger Race, Warren Hathaway, Geoffrey Marshall, and Kevin Murphy. Also present was Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Hickey reviewed the Agenda for the meeting. It was moved by Mr. Race and seconded by Mr. Hathaway to accept the agenda.

The minutes of the last meeting of December 18, 2018 were reviewed and discussed. It was moved (R. Race) and seconded (G. Marshall) to accept and post the minutes as presented. All approved.

A. Harbor Master Plan update:

- a. The final Plan is to be presented to the Planning Board for a vote, and then to the Select Board for a vote of approval. The Planning Board has requested an opinion from Town Counsel regarding potential conflicts of interest with members of the Waterways Dept.
- b. Following a vote of the Planning Board, a presentation to, and vote of the Select Board is anticipated.
- c. Despite difficulties with the form in which payment is to be made, the Treasurer had given directions for processing the gift matching funds approved by the prior Town Administrator.

B. Maritime Center Update: Mr. Murphy provided an update on the construction project building the Maritime Center building in Padanaram. Work is progressing with the end in sight. Delivery of the doors is still expected mid-January. Price quotes for installation of an internet-compatible, on-site weather station are in process. The desire is to install a system that will provide instant public access to the real weather conditions in Padanaram Harbor. The security system and remote gate access controls remain in limbo. The recommended system has been put on hold while the Town considers options and existing system interoperability where Parks, Police, DPW and the Schools each have unique systems.

C. Fishing Pier Project: Mr. Hickey reports that the Town Administrator has received letters of support from the Padanaram Business Association (PBA), Dept. Public Works, and Waterways. The next step is having the Administrator get the Select Board to sign a letter to The Division of Marine Fisheries for getting the Town in line for funding for construction. Waterways minutes showing their unanimous vote of support should suffice as evidence of their support for the project. A letter summarizing the project steps will be sent to the Select Board.

D. Dias Landing: Various configurations were illustrated on the chalk board of the meeting room for the former pump-out dock floats re-purposed for public access at the Dias Landing. It was unanimously supported that the remaining floats should be repaired by a private contractor, and attached to the north side of the Town pier for various access options. Funding for the project could be through CVA funds since they are designated as pump-out floats, or operational expenses. It was also unanimously voted to approve the expenditure of FY 2019 funds to prepare the Dias landing for electrical and security updates to be requested from Town Meeting at the June Town Meeting. Subsurface conduit needs to be installed prior to the active launching season. Sufficient expense funds exist to do the required preparatory work which cannot be done with boats launching and hauling during the summer. Funds to connect electricity and install security cameras will be requested from waterways enterprise retained earnings at the June Town Meeting. Supported by unanimous vote of the Commission.

- E. Waterways Goals for 2019:** Funds will requested from Waterways retained earnings for two capital projects:
\$20,000 for electricity and security at the Dias Landing from waterways retained earnings, and \$175,000 from waterways retained earnings for the replacement of the orange 22' Ambar summer patrol vessel. The "winter Whaler" purchased from New Bedford Police in 2015 is well-suited to winter patrol and rescue work, but the large, heated cabin becomes an impediment and liability for summer interactions by single-operator crews with all size recreational vessels. It was moved and seconded, voted unanimously to support both capital projects with funding from waterways enterprise funds.
- F. Waterways Vacancy:** The Town has finally posted the one vacant position due to the non-renewal by Joe Hannon. Mr. Hannon chose not to seek re-appointment, and his seat on the Waterways Commission has been vacant since. The process for appointment to the Waterways Commission according to the Town Charter §104-3, was described by Mr. Melo. Qualified candidates will be encouraged to express their interest to the Town Administrator.
- G. Harbormaster Staff:** After weeks of waiting, the Personnel Dept. will post the available positions in the Harbormaster Office. Staff has not been found to fill the pump-out boat crew position vacant since last spring, nor has sufficient qualified staff been found to maintain routine harbor patrols. Both of those positions have been sent to the Personnel Director for required posting on the Town website and processing under new procedures of the Town.
Mr. Melo described the on-going billing process for the 2019 season. It was suggested that mailings include notice that email would be the primary contact for renewal invoices for the 2020 season. It was noted that some Towns, such as Barnstable, require an in-person renewal visit to continue mooring permits. It was suggested that requiring email contacts would be reasonable to continue mooring permits in Dartmouth in 2020.
Mr. Melo stated that the MSOA shellfish officer training course will be offered in late February. Deputy Miller will finally be able to attend, and achieve the credentials required to enforce shellfish regulations in Town.
Mr. Melo also announced that he will be away for approximately one week in early February as he travels to FL for his father's 80th birthday.
- H. Public Comment:** There was none.
- I. Next meeting:** tentatively posted for Tuesday May 7, 2019 unless a meeting is needed sooner, to be posted by the vice chair.

No further public comment, the meeting was voted unanimously adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

The next meeting of the Waterways Commission will be on Tuesday 5/7/2019 at 5:30 pm.