

MINUTES OF THE WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, January 23, 2018 - 5:30 p.m. Room 314 Dartmouth Town Hall

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2018 in Room 314 (315 was locked) of Dartmouth Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Gerald Hickey. Also present were members: Roger Race, Geoffrey Marshall, and Kevin Murphy. Members Joseph Hannon, Andrew Herlihy and Warren Hathaway were excused. Also present was Steven Melo, Harbormaster, Steven Bliven of U.H.I. and neighbor Atty. George Leontire.

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

The minutes of the last meeting of November 21, 2017 were reviewed and discussed. It was moved (R. Race) and seconded (G.Marshall) to accept and post the December minutes as presented. All approved.

- A. Under discussion of the Maritime Center, a proposed letter to DEP was introduced and discussed. The subject of the letter is a note on the Ch. 91 license for the dock at 4 Water Street purporting to limit berthing from the western-most float. Neighbor Leontire is requesting that note, if a condition on the use of his dock, be removed. Mr. Melo stated that both he, and Conservation were unaware of the unusual notation. It makes little sense in that the outside berth of that float system is the safest and most logical berth on the pier. It has been the primary berth for as long as all could remember. It was agreed that a letter of support to remove that note or condition be forwarded to DEP from the Harbormaster. A brief update on the plans and design work for the Maritime center was given by the harbormaster, including the anticipated timeline for the bid and construction schedule. A meeting is scheduled for this evening with the Dartmouth Zoning Board of Appeals to obtain some aspects of relief from building or zoning issues relative the Maritime Center building.
- B. The Harbor Master Plan project was second on the agenda. Project Coordinator Steven Bliven of UHI was present. He reported 270 responses to their on-line survey regarding the subjects of the plan. An advisory committee meeting with 15-20 participants is scheduled for next week. Current management practices will be one subject of the advisory group. Mr. Race suggests that DCTV televise that meeting to create a record and continue publicity of project. Mr. Bliven reported positive feedback on group meetings. After the advisory committee meeting, Mr. Bliven expects to publish a report to the Town's website summarizing findings thus far. An analysis of what is current practice will get published before any recommendations are made. Another broad public meeting is expected after the above publication. On the subject of formalizing coordination of waterways activities and information, it was suggested from the Select Board office that *Waterways* might assume the role of facilitator of all things waterways related. Mr. Hickey mentioned the difficulty where so many departments, agencies and individuals each hold or assume a stake in the area.
- C. Mr. Race announced that Ross Kessler from the Division of Marine Fisheries is still very interested in construction of a dedicated fishing pier in Dartmouth. It was stressed that careful, proper steps be followed to make the process open and transparent with all interested departments, public and officials notified for timely input. All were reminded that DMF will only proceed with this after an open and complete public vetting process in advance of construction.
- D. Mr. Race gave a summary of research conducted into establishing a 501c organization for the benefit of Dartmouth Waterways. This was investigated as a potential funding benefit for waterway improvements in a manner similar to Dartmouth's "friends of the elderly" or the Westport River Watershed Alliance. After discussion with interested parties and professionals knowledgeable in founding such organizations, Mr. Race feels that this idea is most likely a no-go. He cited the expense and difficulty in properly setting up, as well as the unknown impact of recent tax law changes.

- E.** Kevin Murphy discussed his efforts to get a light pole with electricity and security affixed next to the Harbormaster shack at the Dias Landing. Lou Branco from Branco and Sousa Electric started the application to determine what costs might be. It was learned that trenching across the parking lot would be required to bring electricity to the pole. No overhead wires would be allowed to cross the launch facility. Mr. Murphy is also working with a contractor to provide replacement dinghy racks with an updated design. Written proposals are expected for that update. A granite post was snapped off at ground level and landed a considerable distance away in the parking lot. Mr. Melo moved it away from the traffic area as best he could, but the post is still obstructing one handicap parking space. He will try to get assistance to lift and move it off the asphalt. No information as to how this happened is known, however it was most likely struck by an unknown plow.
- F.** It was reported that Mr. Hickox cancelled his meeting with Andy Herlihy to discuss the DPW plans for sidewalks on Rogers Street. Repair of the granite fence post at the Roger Street facility will be on hold until it is learned what impact the sidewalk project will have on the edge of that parking lot.
- G.** Mr. Hickey reported that he is still waiting for a reply from the Town's Personnel Director regarding the previous request to address the hourly rate of Seasonal Assistant compensation. He will follow-up with Ms. Medeiros again.
- H.** Mr. Melo gave a very brief Harbormaster update on his Department boats, facilities and staffing before the meeting was interrupted with a request to move over to the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting.

No Public Comment being offered, the meeting was voted unanimously adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

The next meeting of the Waterways Commission will be on Tuesday 5/8/2018 at 5:30 pm.