

MINUTES OF THE WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, January 24, 2017 - 5:30 p.m. Room 314 Dartmouth Town Hall

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2017 in Room 315. Because of scheduling issues, the meeting was moved to Room 314 instead, with notice of that change posted on the door to 315. The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Gerald Hickey. Present were members: Joseph Hannon, Roger Race, Geoffrey Marshall and Andrew Herlihy. Also present was Mr. Steven Melo, Harbormaster, and Steve Bliven.

Mr. Hickey reviewed the Agenda for the meeting. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda with alteration in the order of discussion.

The minutes of the last meeting of December 13, 2016 were reviewed and discussed. Mr. Hannon asked if the minutes should reflect that the Harbor Management Plan is a Town Meeting process. It was agreed to post the minutes to the meeting as amended. All approved.

- A. Waterways/Harbor Master Plan:** Mr. Steve Bliven was present to describe his on-going efforts regarding his work on the preliminary study for a master plan. He distributed a discussion draft of his study last Thursday, seeking input, corrections and comment. His work continues with a few remaining interviews. A common thread from his discussions with participants seems to be a lack of understanding about what the Waterways Commission does, who they are, and what they are supposed to do relative to the Town's waterways. Mr. Bliven suggests an improved web presence with an updated description of the Commission powers, duties and charge. Mr. Bliven suggested that a fragmented power/responsibility picture currently exists in the public's mind. Recent developments by the pathways committee around the harbor seems to be adding to the public confusion. He mentioned that there would be a hearing before the Select Board regarding Chapter 91 issues with the pathways committee. He hoped that either the Select Board or pathways group might invite waterways to this hearing. Mr. Bliven described a January 27, 2017 meeting scheduled at the DEP regional office in Lakeville regarding the Pathways Chapter 91 efforts. Mr. Melo and Planner Hansen will be in attendance. Mr. Bliven explained that Chapter 91 licenses are state DEP issued. The DEP solicits comments, through the Town Planning Board, from Harbormasters and Shellfish Constables regarding proposed projects. Local Conservation Commissions get involved under their local Wetlands Protection Acts. The Army Corps of Engineers get involved in such projects under the federal Clean Water Act. Mr. Bliven further described the 7 limited areas of ConCom jurisdiction where docks are concerned. Navigation and safety are not within their purview, so they may be assuming some Planning Board Responsibilities. Mr. Bliven also stated that PARKING is believed to be an overriding limiting factor with any discussions of increasing Harbor, Waterways or Padanaram Village access. It was also explained that the Town Administration adamantly believes the Planning Board should take the lead on any Waterways Management Plan and the Waterways Commission agrees.

Mr. Hannon wants to quickly put together the final preliminary report so the issue can go to the June Town Meeting for approval. Mr. Race wants to know more about Seaport Council grant funding opportunities and chances for success before this goes to Town Meeting for approval, stating that funding should be nailed-down before discussions at Town Meeting. Mr. Hannon noted that the Seaport Council deadline for acceptance is after June Town Meeting agenda formation. Mr. Hickey asked if the Waterways Commission needs to vote on any aspect of the preliminary project at this time. It was decided that any comments on the draft preliminary report could be individually communicated to Mr. Bliven. Mr. Hannon wants the draft preliminary report to be sent to Mr. Cressman, Town Planner John Hansen and FinCom Chairman Tattlebaum. Goal for completion of the final report is March 1st. The next step will be completion of the SEC grant application by May 1st which is too late to have this appear on the June Town Meeting warrant. Mr. Bliven is still seeking response to interview requests from DPD and District 1 Fire. For the SEC grant, it needs to be defined who the lead and active partners will be. The Waterways Commission unanimously

accepts the preliminary report, subject to completion and revision as needed. It was noted that if Urban Harbors Institute is selected by the Planning Board for the final management plan, no bidding process is required since they are part of a State Agency. The \$2,500.00 already committed to the process for this preliminary plan will count toward the 20% match required under any Council grant.

- B. 12 Rogers Street – Agreement for shared use with C.B.C:** Review of the proposed agreement for shared use resulted in Mr. Hannon moving to forward the agreement, following discussion of the amount of “rent” to be paid by Community boating. It was suggested that the amount should be compatible with nearby self-storage. It was offered that the amount of \$50 per month would be acceptable, in addition to the value all of the quid-pro-quo benefits offered. That motion was seconded by Mr. Race, with 4 in favor and Mr. Herlihy abstaining from the vote.
- C. Waterways 2016 Year-End Summary:** The year-end report required by the Town for the published town-wide report was distributed for review. It was noted that this report also serves as the annual report required to be given to the Select Board on the state of the waterways and activities of the prior year.
- D. Water Street Maritime Center update:** there was no updated information on this project at this time.
- E. Department Update:** Mr. Melo updated the Commission on rationale for keeping the Landing floats in the water this winter, Department boats for the winter months, and winter projects that include construction of the Bouchard Grant-funded upweller in the Wareham Harbormaster work garage. It was suggested that a liaison with Bristol Aggie High School might benefit the upweller project, and some involvement of Sea Lab grade school children might also work.
- F. Shrink-Wrap #4 LDPE Recycling Efforts:** The most recent email from Refuse District Recycle coordinator Maria Perez-Dormitzer was shared. The next step will be to await the public announcement planned for recycling process involving area boat shrink wrap, and share that announcement on Town and Department websites.

There was no public comment, the next meeting date was set for Tuesday May 2, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. unless needed sooner, and the meeting was adjourned by vote at 7:05 pm.