

MINUTES OF THE WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, December 18, 2018 - 5:30 p.m. Room 315 Dartmouth Town Hall

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly scheduled for Tuesday, December 18, 2018 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. Hathaway and seconded by Mr. Race to accept the agenda.

The minutes of the last meeting of November 20, 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. Waterways Projects/Expenditures – need to prioritize:

- a. Summer season patrol vessel remains the highest priority for retained earnings. The Boston Whaler Challenger is a superb winter platform, as was intended following the Town efficiency study calling for it. The size, height, and full enclosure makes it difficult for one person to maneuver alongside another vessel in crowded summer traffic by a sole operator seasonal assistant. It also requires a bridge opening to be useful on both sides of the harbor. A smaller open boat, similar to the orange surplus Ambar is the ideal summer patrol/rescue vessel and replacement of that open boat is needed. After considerable research, the Brunswick Impact D collar 750 is identified as the most practical, affordable replacement. It was moved (G. Hickey) and seconded (G. Marshall) to request a total of \$175,000 from Waterways retained earning accounts to accomplish this purchase and declare the existing Ambar vessel surplus.
- b. Security system for Dias Town Landing: It was unanimously voted to identify \$3,000 from the Waterways Operational Budget to install electrical conduit, subgrade at the landing. At the June Town Meeting, it was desired that funds sufficient to purchase and install a security camera system be requested from Waterways Fund retained earnings to complete that system.
- c. If the repair and re-floating of the pump-out docks currently stored at the landing does not rise to the level of a capital project, it was advised that the Harbormaster should utilize CVA grant funds available to repair and re-launch those floats for the 2019 season.
- d. The total to be requested from the June Town Meeting are anticipated to be \$195,000, broken down to be \$175,000 for a new vessel, and \$20,000 for electricity and security at the landing.
- e. An additional kayak/SUP storage rack is desired. Funding for construction should be available under the FY 2019 operational budget. The location is likely to be at the end of the existing dinghy racks. Those dinghy racks were not fully rented in 2018, and the demand for dinghy storage is outpacing dinghy storage requests. It is likely that the last (end) dinghy rack should be replaced with one or two racks similar to the kayak rack installed in 2018 and sold-out immediately.
- f. The Harbormaster's second highest priority remains a storage/work facility with weather-protected shelter for Department vessels and equipment. The "shared space" arrangement promised at the Allen Street garage has not materialized. All indoor spaces area available to Parks and Recreation only, with noise being made to regarding the minimal outdoor area being used by waterways at that "shared use" facility. Without an ability to perform repairs and maintenance at a Town facility, we are paying well over \$100 per hour for work that could be performed in-house in a reasonably protected work environment.

B. Maritime Center Update: Mr. Murphy provided an update on the construction project building the Maritime Center building in Padanaram. Work is progressing well with the end in sight. Despite occasional winter weather, the building is near completion. Delays will be caused by delayed delivery of the doors in mid-January. We need to get price quotes for installation of an internet-compatible, on-site weather stations. The desire is to install a system that will provide instant public

access to the real weather conditions in Padanaram Harbor. This will allow boaters to make informed, safe decisions regarding maritime travel or preparations from the immediate area. Davis instruments and Onset systems in MA are two leads to be compared. 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 will need to receive letters of support from the Padanaram Business Association (PBA), Dept. Public Works, Waterways, and any other impacted entity before the Administrator can have the Select Board sign a letter to The Division of Marine Fisheries for construction. Waterways minutes showing their unanimous vote of support should suffice as evidence of their support.
- D. **Waterways Commission Vacancy:** It was noted that the Select Board had not yet filled the vacancy left when Joseph Hannon did not request re-appointment. The Chair will email the Town Administrator to begin the process of filling that vacancy in accordance with Dartmouth By-laws §104-3.
- E. **GNBVT Student Co-op program:** The Harbormaster has proposed accepting at least one student into the office under that paid Co-op program. Email has been sent to Melissa Medeiros, Personnel Director asking if, and how that can be accomplished. No response has been received yet. This could become an important key to developing a well-trained support staff for the Harbormaster Operations. He was encouraged to pursue.
- F. **Public Comment:** Mr. Mason Almeida and Ms. Lynne Richmond were present for the entire meeting. They have previously rented a Hayes Mooring Service mooring site in Padanaram Harbor. He asked for an explanation of why those are no longer commercial rental permits and explained that they had heard nothing before being notified by the Harbormaster. Mr. Mason has since secured an alternative commercial rental since they wish to remain homeported in Padanaram. The issues reviewed by Town Counsel were explained, with the results understood in light of the controlling regulations. Mr. Mason expressed an interest in participating on the Commission, but noted his lack of residence in Town.

No further public comment, the meeting was voted unanimously adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the Waterways Commission will be on Tuesday 1/15/2019 at 5:30 pm.