

## MINUTES OF THE WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday December 20, 2019 - 5:30 p.m. Dartmouth Town Hall Room 315

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in room 315 of Dartmouth Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hickey. Present were members: Gerald Hickey, Kevin Murphy, Roger Race, Andy Herlihy, Geoff Marshall and Patty Sweriduk. Also present was Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Hickey reviewed the Agenda for the meeting. It was moved by Roger Race and seconded by Kevin Murphy to accept the Agenda. The motion to accept the Agenda was approved. The minutes of the last meeting of November 19, 2019 were reviewed and discussed. It was moved by Roger Race and seconded by Kevin Murphy to accept and post the minutes as presented. All approved.

- A. **Public Hearing:** Upon motion by Roger Race and second by Kevin Murphy, Chairman Hickey opens the Public Hearing regarding 2012 permit rates and any other regulatory changes advised, all as properly noticed and advertised. Mr. Melo gave a quick review of the FY2020 budget and anticipated changes discussed with Town Administrator MacInnes. Mr. Murphy made a motion to raise Waterways Use Boat permit rates. Mr. Murphy was reminded of a prior Commission vote in the Fall to keep the 2020 boating season waterways rates the same as for the prior season. Roger Race stated that he wants to wait until May or June to re-evaluate the boat fee for following seasons. Mr. Murphy withdrew his motion related to waterways use fee rates. It was unanimously voted to revisit and review waterway rates. **Launch Rates:** The daily and seasonal launch ramp rates have been static at \$5.00 and \$50.00 for several years. Neighboring municipalities (Westport and New Bedford) have been charging \$7.00 daily for several years. Roger Race moves, and Andy Herlihy seconds advising an increase in the daily launch rate from \$5.00 to \$7.00. All were unanimously in support of that increase. Roger Race moved, and Andy Herlihy seconds advising an increase in the unlimited seasonal rate of \$60 per decal. All voted unanimously in favor of that rate moving forward. Final approval of these new rates will need Public Access Board Approval. Mr. Melo will contact the PAB.

Mr. Brian O'Hare spoke from the audience asking advice from the Commission regarding his interest in furthering the recommendations of the Harbor Management Plan. Mr. O'Hare introduced himself as a Bay Keeper water quality volunteer, and an "at-large" representative to the harbor plan community group. Mr. O'Hare has attempted emails to the Town Administrator, Town Planner, Select Board Members, and the Harbormaster. So far, only the Harbormaster has responded. Two email requests to Board member Tatelbaum offering to help with implementation of the harbor plan have gone unanswered. Mr. Hickey advised Mr. O'Hare that the Commission was in the midst of an advertised public hearing regarding rates.

Back on the topic of rates and regulations, the amount assessed for **mooring permits** issued by the Harbormaster, it was moved by Roger Race and seconded by Geoff Marshall to advise that annual mooring permit rates be increased for the 2020 boating season from \$60 for individual permits and \$120 for commercial permits to \$70 for individual and \$140 for commercial permits. That was voted unanimously by the Commission. It was decided to retain the current rates of \$15 for unreserved beach **dinghy permits** and \$50 for reserved kayak and dinghy rack space permits.

Kevin Murphy moved, and Roger Race seconded, that dinghy storage on floats, if able to be installed for the 2020 boating season, should be advised at this hearing. It was discussed that the dry float storage of dinghies less than ten feet, if the refurbished floats can be installed, should be permitted at a rate to be determined by the Harbormaster to cover the costs of installation/maintenance/removal of those floats, and consistent with similar related commercial accommodations. Mr. Murphy's motion, seconded by Roger Race, advises a seasonal rate of not less than \$250 per allocated space. All voted unanimously in favor.

Regarding any other rate or regulatory change to be considered during the public hearing, Mr. Melo listed the **mooring waiting list fee of \$15** per year, and the **one-time new mooring gear installation fee of \$50** as probably being adequate for the amount of work required of each. Upon the need for refining and developing the definitions section of the mooring regulations, Geoff Marshall and Patricia Sweriduk offered that they will work with NBYC to consistently define who and what a "transient boater" may be.

Mr. Hickey asked if there was any public comment regarding the Public Hearing. There was none. He entertained Mr. Murphy's motion and Roger Race's seconding of that motion to dissolve the public hearing and resume the Commission's public meeting.

- B. Capital Projects Update:** Mr. Melo announced that we are still waiting for Fire District One to receive their new truck before we are able to purchase the former Chief SUV for waterways use. He is also working with the Town Treasurer and Administrator for the proper way to order the approved new rescue vessel. None of the bidders would be able to deliver prior to the start of next season, so he will develop a Plan B for next season.
- C. Grants Update:** The Seaport Economic Council meeting for December 17th (next week) will have several waterways representatives in attendance. Mr. Melo has a scheduled meeting at the same time with Town Administrator MacInnes and cannot attend.
- D. Maritime Center Punch List:** No word has been received regarding the "punch-list" of items needed or desired for completion of the Center. The amount of unused funds needs to be expended prior to June of 2020.
- E. Dias Landing:** Mr. Melo stated that security camera installation is still needed. Town Hall has selected a provider who worked at the Maritime Center, Council on Aging, and Town Hall. He has no information on the selected provider.
- F. Allen Street storage and former police station:** At the direction of Town Administrator MacInnes, Mr. Melo has moved all boats on trailers, and empty trailers out of the facility on Allen Street that was supposed to be shared by Parks, Waterways and DCTV. We have been "temporarily" assigned to the old police station grounds until it is decided what should happen to that property. No mention has been made of what will become of the prior Memorandum that was executed for the shared use of Allen Street.
- G. Rogers Street update:** No information has been received regarding the installation of the prefabricated boat ramp at the end of Rogers Street. A negative letter regarding winter flounder or some similar habitat was issued by DMF, but nothing further on that was heard.
- H. Harbor Management Plan update:** Patricia Sweriduk wants Gerry Hickey to set up a meeting with a subcommittee and the Select Board to tell them how we need to push implementation. Mr. Hickey is going to start tomorrow with contact to Boar Chair Mickelson. Mrs. Sweriduk wants waterways to come up with a plan first. She believes that the Board needs to hear from the Commission as to how best to implement the Plan. There is public interest, as Mr. O'Hare indicated, as well as another resident who seeks to be appointed to the public access subcommittee. The Board needs to determine whether they will make those appointments or delegate another entity to do that.
- I. Staffing/Office:** Harbormaster Melo is still waiting for a response to his email request for starting the posting process for hiring seasonal help. He reviewed the problems encountered last year with not getting the applicant list until August for seasonal help, and his desire to do things differently this year. The Town received a completed application for what would be the third **aquaculture license** in Dartmouth. Waterways Commission is one of the town entities invited to submit written comments within 30 days. It was discussed whether the Commission would submit their own comments, or rely upon the comments of the Harbormaster/Shellfish Constable. Roger Race concurred with the need for affixed identification tags for all license holders in Dartmouth.
- J. Public Comment:** none
- K. Next Meeting Schedule:** The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 315 of the Town Hall Building.
- L. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.**