

MINUTES OF THE WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

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

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly scheduled for Tuesday, September 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. Also present were members: Roger Race, Warren Hathaway, Geoffrey Marshall, Andrew Herlihy 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 June 28, 2018 were reviewed and discussed. It was moved (R. Race) and seconded (G. Marshall) to accept and post the prior minutes as presented. All approved.

- A. “Qualified Inspector” Approved by the Harbormaster:** Harbormaster Melo provided information he and GNBVTHS Intern Dakota Chixarro compiled regarding standards for approving or authorizing mooring service providers. Standards from other jurisdictions were studied and revised for suitability to Dartmouth. A handout was provided with options and suggested changes to the Dartmouth Mooring Regulations that would clarify and enhance the understanding of what it would take to provide mooring service in Dartmouth waters. Definitions, insurance levels, qualifications, and similar criteria were explored in the compiled data. Following discussions of the options, it was voted moved by Warren Hathaway, and seconded by Roger Race to adopt the recommended definitions and clarifications with the addition of a general explanation of “what constitutes a mooring” and an express limitation of liability to the Town and Harbormaster Office regarding the regulation and assignment of mooring sites. Motion was unanimously approved.
- B. Sale/Transfer of Pioneer Mooring Service:** The ownership of Pioneer Mooring Service, currently a “Qualified Mooring Inspector” approved for mooring service, inspection and installation work in Dartmouth waters by the Harbormaster is being transferred. Proprietor Steven Gomes, who has owned this business for over a decade, is selling his interest in the mooring service business to Paul Adam and Ryan Walsh. They fully intend to continue the services provided in the manner they have been done by Mr. Gomes. They also seek to expand and promote growth wherever possible. Both new principals were present, and answered Commission questions. It was determined that the new proprietors would qualify under the recently-considered and adopted standards. It was moved by Mr. Marshall, and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the intended transfer of ownership and continue the current qualification of Pioneer Mooring Service in Dartmouth waters. It was unanimously voted. The Commission suggested sharing of the adopted standards with surrounding municipalities to keep the standards consistent throughout the region.
- C. Maritime Center Update:** Kevin Murphy provided an update of the rapid construction schedule for the project. The security camera system being designed for the site was explained with a review of proposals supplied by Don Bliss. The issue of having a system that could link with any other town systems was explored. It was noted that DPW, Parks, School Dept. and others all have independent systems. There is not currently a single source or system in place. Mr. Race motions, and Mr. Murphy seconds that we explore a stand-alone, self-contained system that waterways maintains control over. All approved in that motion. All Commission Members were also in favor of exploring community “buy-in” through donations of benches, cupola weathervane and the flagpole. Mr. Murphy says that CLE/Foth engineering is “on-top of” the needed control gate/access restriction from the MOU signed regarding the project. Opening of the center is slated for next spring. It was questioned whether the center could be utilized for the Padanaram Stroll in early December, with decorations and restrooms available.
- D. Fishing Pier:** The Commission accepted the concept as displayed in the rendering provided by Tristan of Saltonstall Architects. The first issue to address will be the use of parking spaces on the

west side of the causeway. The pier will attract and accommodate the same number of people fishing on the bridge now, not add to that number who will need parking spots. The entrance to the pier on the west side of the bridge would help make parking outside of the Village attractive. It was suggested that inclusion of the rendering in the Urban Harbors Institute management plan. Mr. Warren Hathaway moves, and Mr. Kevin Murphy seconds a motion to move forward with the fishing pier proposal. A unanimous vote of all members present was cast in favor of the Waterways Commission supporting recommendation of construction of a dedicated fishing pier. It was asked by Mr. Geoff Marshall if the fishing pier construction project could include some aspects of dredging. Moving the sand accumulating along that edge of the channel could enhance fishing and navigation in that area.

- E. Rogers Street Update:** It was reported that sewer lines are being run to the front of 12 Rogers Street for the eventual replacement of septic service with sewer service to that facility. That will improve the possible uses for that building in the future. Mr. Hickey reported that he intends to request a meeting with the new Town Administrator to greet and update Mr. MacInnes with the Waterways projects and goals.
- F. Dredging need at Dias Landing boat ramps:** Current opportunities for dredging grants through the State should be directed to the State Public Access Board to re-clear the approach to the two new boat ramps. Road run-off and late winter storms have decreased the working depth at the east end of both ramps to less than the 7.5 feet required for larger sailboats. The loss of depth creates a calculable loss of economic opportunity for boatyards in the region, forcing those larger boats to seek service elsewhere.
- G. Seaport Economic Council:** Another round of grant opportunities has been announced with \$50 million in grants being available over the course of the next 4 years. These will require a 20% match from the municipality. Mr. Race suggested that landing dredging might be tied into these grants for the noted loss of economic engine that the deeper draft boats provide. Mr. Race wants to time the next application for the end of the maritime center and harbor plan. It was noted that there remains a \$1million cap for each project. It was suggested that we develop a solid concept and plan now, but wait to apply until after the maritime center is done, and the harbor plan shows the benefits and feasibility. It was suggested that Waterways should maintain control over any improvements at the Dias Landing to avoid a repeat of the past.
- H. Harbormaster Update:** Harbormaster Melo provided an update of activity from his office, including the on-going need for additional staffing within the budgeted funds. Qualified candidates willing to work summer weekends remain scarce. He is considering student interns and creating positions as wharfingers and harbor assistants to supplement existing staff in the delivery of services to boaters. Mr. Melo also spoke about the moving of mooring list candidates into mooring assignments, the immediate filling of the new kayak rack, and the needs for additional public accommodations. He discussed the need to replace the Humvee with a second Department vehicle as well as the pressing need to replace the summer patrol/rescue surplus USCG Ambar boat with a reliable vessel. This information was tied into a favorable report of coming in under budget for the recently-closed FY2018 financial report.
- I.** No Public Comment being offered, the meeting was voted unanimously adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Waterways Commission will be on Monday 10/29/2018 at 5:30 pm.