

## MINUTES OF THE WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday December 21, 2021 - 4:00 p.m. Zoom Remote meeting

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A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly scheduled for Tuesday, December 21, 2021. This meeting was held remotely through zoom due to the Governor's COVID-19 allowances regarding public gatherings.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hickey. Present and participating were members: Gerald Hickey, Roger Race, Andy Herlihy, Kevin Murphy, Patty Sweriduk and Anthony TJ Salvidio. Also present was FinCom/Waterways liaison Robert Gauvin .
2. The **minutes** of the last meeting of 8/23/21 were reviewed and discussed. It was moved by Kevin Murphy and seconded by Patricia Sweriduk to accept and post the minutes as presented. All approved by roll call vote except Mr. Salvidio who abstained.
3. The **newest appointment** to the Commission, Atty. Anthony Salvidio was introduced by Chairman Hickey. Mr. Salvidio prefers to be known as TJ and gave a brief background. He was welcomed by all.
4. Mr. Murphy moved to table the discussion on the marina project until Roger Race could participate.
5. Mr. Hickey described the difficulties with the start of the Open Space and Recreation Steering (OSRC)committee that he was invited to participate on. He also described a letter he sent asking that group to endorse and incorporate the north harbor recreation/waterski area. Mr. Murphy asked if we ever got an answer from Assistant Town Counsel regarding our request for an opinion regarding protection of that area? A final answer has not been delivered.
6. The \$107,000 Coastal Zone Management (CZM) grant for resiliency and protection of the Dias Landing seawall is underway through town hall. Cody Haddad had been working with the engineering firm hired by the Town.
7. Mr. Herlihy had no further details at this time regarding his discussions with the Town Administrator and expanded collaboration at the Rogers Street facility.
8. Mr. Melo gave an update on discussions regarding possible expanded public use of the welcome center at the maritime center. He has been corresponding with Steve Bliven about educational and other opportunities for that facility.
9. Patty Sweriduk briefed the Commission regarding her chairing of the harbor management plan implementation group. She summarized the many topics of the two public meetings held so far. Focus was placed upon the economic value Padanaram Harbor brings to the Town. She and Roger Race have been working on that and will seek to drill down on that topic with further funding opportunities in the \$25-\$30K range. She also mentioned that further CZM funding opportunities could be enhanced with use of the maritime center for

educational opportunities. That implementation group is also looking for any intersection between the harbor management plan and the municipal vulnerability plan project.

10. The Buzzards Bay Coalition has also begun work on a very well funded grant project studying the water quality from Buttonwood Brook to Apponagansett Bay. This is a multi-year, multi-municipality project that brings volunteers, municipal entities and the coalition together on the topic of improving water quality entering the Bay.
11. Mr. Melo attempted to refine the issues presented regarding further law enforcement training and the application of “police reform” requirements on Harbormaster Staff. If HM Staff is required to attend the state-wide “Bridge Academy” to bring certified staff up to the same enforcement training levels as all police officers. The training is specific to land-based police activities with road patrols and nothing addressing maritime law enforcement specific to Harbormaster functions.
12. Mr. Melo announced that the Town budget process is contemplating a “level-funded” FY 2023 budget process. Based upon that edict, combined with the increased revenue realized from a significant increase in boats and boat sizes during this second season of Covid, he sees no need to increase the waterways and mooring fees that fall under his Department’s purview. He intends to maintain the rates from the 2021 season and FY2022 budget into his FY2023 budget, unless the Commission wishes to advise otherwise.
13. Mr. Melo announced that the new Rescue/Patrol Boat is completed at the SafeBoat facility in Bremerton, WA. Assistant HM Charles Howland volunteered to make the trip to inspect and go into Puget Sound for sea trials of the completed hull. He announced that the winter Whaler is also serviced and ready for winter rescue service on the Bay.
14. Mr. Hickey applauded the success of the Village Buoy Holiday Tree at the maritime center. Mr. Salvidio noted that the center is doing exactly what it was designed for, bringing the community together. The tree lighting was a huge success and the Lt. Governor was very gracious in her official lighting on December 4th. The ceremony was well-attended on a beautiful winter night. Mr. Hickey will be writing a note of thanks and congratulations to Molly Amando and her mother’s group who spearheaded the display.
15. The discussion returned to agenda item #4, the marina project next steps. Mr. Murphy announced that a decision on any award for design & engineering should come from the Seaport Economic Council (SEC) in MARCH of 2022. The Town will not entertain entering into any contract for engineering/design services prior to receipt of that award. They are looking for a possible MAY 2022 submission to SEC for a final construction grant. It is a tight timeline, but necessary to keep the project moving while funding assistance is possible. Issues of matching co-payment funds could be addressed at the fall Town Meeting. Mr. Murphy wants the Commission to decide on a design and construction materials for the floats now, before the project is sent to an engineering firm for their deliberation. Mr. Hickey asked if setting our sights on only one engineering firm, CLE/Foth might cause a problem with bidding requirements? Roger Race stated that CLE/Foth are the best in the nation, and nobody else should be considered. TJ. Salvidio and Patty Sweriduk both expressed their desire to keep the momentum rolling

toward completion with as much of the heavy lifting addressed in the off-season. Mr. Murphy repeated his strong preference for concrete floats and piles. Mr. Melo asked why we would be paying for professional engineering and design without having them evaluate the best option for this particular area. There are features that need careful consideration, such as available water depth and how low concrete sits in the water, seasonal removal or year-round use, how do we address the attractive nuisance and hazard if left in the water all winter, etc. Mr. Murphy again wanted to decide on concrete and piles now. Mr. Race volunteered to do a spreadsheet on the likely costs for removal of wooden floats compared with leaving concrete floats in the water year-round. He also volunteered to start an email to the eventual engineering firm spelling out the factors that need to be considered in deciding design and materials. Mr. Melo will reach out to Mr. Greg Barnes, Town Treasurer and procurement officer for the Town to clarify if CLE/Foth can be considered the eventual service provider if the grant is awarded.

16. Patty Sweriduk asked Mr. Melo to expound upon mention made of a requested dock structure into the north harbor recreation area. Mr. Melo explained that an email seeking comment was received for a 168' + structure into the area designated for waterskiing and recreational speed activities. The details of the "plan" were very vague and lacking in essential measurements, depths, etc. He reminded the Commission that he has been warning for years of the need to maintain this protected area for the safety of all, especially younger people seeking to waterski, tube and enjoy other such activities in a relatively protected location. Taking a young child or inexperienced person out into the open Bay to learn how to waterski is not practical and is not necessary given the traditional and historic use of the northwest harbor area. He intends to keep that purpose paramount in his response.
17. The next meeting is scheduled (remotely) by Zoom for 4:00 p.m. on 1/18/2022
18. The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.