

MINUTES OF THE WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday March 23, 2021 - 4:00 p.m. Zoom Remote meeting
Zoom Id: 863 6961 1339
DCTV Archive: <http://75.147.58.17/CablecastPublicSite/show/6800?channel=2>

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly scheduled for Tuesday, March 23, 2021. This meeting was held remotely through zoom due to the Governor's COVID-19 restrictions on large public gatherings.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hickey. Present and participating were members: Gerald Hickey, Roger Race, Andy Herlihy, Geoff Marshall. Commissioners Warren Hathaway and Kevin Murphy were absent. Also present were Urban Harbors Institute (UHI) representatives Allison Novelly and Steven Bliven. Finance Committee Liaison Robert Gauvin was also present.
2. The **minutes** of the last meeting, 2/16/21 were reviewed and discussed. It was moved by Roger Race and seconded by Patricia Sweriduk to accept and post the minutes as presented. All approved by roll call vote.
3. **UHI Marina Feasibility Study Update, Contract Status:** Allison Novelly and Steve Bliven of UHI conducted a review of their work to date. The Commission members were asked what they envisioned for the size and uses of any potential marina. Possibilities for enhanced or shared parking options were discussed. Potential lay-outs were compared with similar marinas in Marion and Mattapoisett, with options for securing dinghies and small boats to float arrangements. The possibility for space for the rental of kayaks or paddle boards was discussed with examples from other towns (Hingham) discussed.
4. **Harbor Management Plan:** Roger Race gave a summary of the work to date of the Harbor Management Plan implementation group. He particularly noted the work being done to quantify the economic impact and value of Padanaram Harbor to the Town. He also mentioned working with the Town grant administrator to identify and apply for grant funding to establish a water quality monitoring program for Town waterways. Mr. Race relayed the news that this implementation group will likely need to be formalized with minutes, public postings and the like per Select Board member David Tatelbaum. Mrs. Sweriduk agreed that proper progress will take time to get things done correctly. Steve Bliven discussed the commitments needed from the Town to partner with the Coalition from Buzzards Bay.
5. **Transient Boater Mooring usage:** Mr. Melo described on-going efforts to eliminate any “grey” areas in the ability for non-resident travelling boaters to visit and stay in Padanaram Harbor without that accommodation becoming an end-run around the mooring use regulations or the mooring waiting list. He described past year problems where NBYC would accept incoming boats for a temporary transient stay, only to find some were reluctant to leave or go through the process to obtain a permanent mooring rental or assignment. A draft regulation for visiting boaters was introduced for the Commission to consider. The Commission was unanimously favorable to have Mr. Melo continue refining the allowable visitor practices regarding mooring use.
6. **Dias Landing:**
 - a. **DEG and Security Cameras:** Mr. Melo updated the status of the security cameras. The cameras are functioning as intended, with ongoing fine-tuning adjustments to overcome environmental conditions. The Town is working on the connectivity refinements needed. Mrs. Sweriduk supports the acquisition of a tablet or ipad for each HM Staff to make access to the security cameras more effective.

- b. **Landing floats installed:** Pioneer has re-installed all floats associated with the Dias Landing. Former pump out floats were also launched and intended for use as temporary tie-up for public use. One set was recently utilized for an on-water ping pong tournament. It is thought that tying alongside for rigging issues or short-term Village visits might be more convenient to boaters.
 - c. **Lighting issues:** Mr. Melo described the lighting changes and plans to further adjust the angle of the fixtures to minimize impact across the harbor. Mr. Melo has an appointment to meet with the lighting contractor after this meeting to fine-tune light angles.

- 7. **Permit renewal process:** Mr. Melo gave a review of the billing invoice process underway. He explained the difficulty keeping up without a dedicated clerical assistant position for the last 5 or 6 years. The response to date indicates that this may be another record year for new boats, boat changes and new customers.

- 8. **Season Preparation Plans:** Mr. Melo reported that he was given approval for one new qualified Seasonal Assistant Harbormaster. The Personnel Director verified qualifications and suitability for the appointment. He has also reached out to Mass Maritime Academy for any possible internship or similar opportunities.

- 9. **Legal Opinion Request:** Mr. Melo defined the issue requested to be addressed by Town Counsel in relation to 310 C.M.R. 9.38(2)(b). The extent that reliance upon other Town Boards needs to be defined and a proper route for cooperation is requested. The request has been submitted to the Town Administrator for approval of the work sought.

- 10. Mr. Robert Gauvin addressed the Commission to let them know that Mr. Melo's presentation of the Waterways FY 2022 was on-point and "one of the best" departments presented. He thanked him for his presentation, and the Commission thanked Mr. Gauvin for that comment of praise.

- 11. **No further issues to be discussed.**

- 12. **Next meeting** is scheduled (remotely) by Zoom for 4:00 p.m. on **4/27/2021**.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous roll call vote at 5:35 p.m.