

MINUTES OF THE WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday April 27, 2021 - 4:00 p.m. Zoom Remote meeting
Zoom Id: 819 1194 4771
DCTV Archive Link: <http://75.147.58.17/CablecastPublicSite/show/7044?channel=2>

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 2021. This meeting was held remotely through zoom due to the Governor's COVID-19 ban 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, Warren Hathaway, Kevin Murphy, and Patricia Sweriduk. Also present were Urban Harbors Institute (UHI) representative Allison Novelly, Select Board Chairman Frank Gracie, and Finance Committee member Robert Gauvin.
2. The **minutes** of the last meeting of 3/23/21 were reviewed and discussed. It was moved by Andy Herlihy 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 gave an update on the feasibility study underway. She is seeking bathymetric data for proposed location ASAP. Plans are needed for public presentation of the study. She discussed the need for coordinated discussions with other entities regarding parking options. Kevin Murphy volunteered, and was endorsed by unanimous vote, to explore parking issues with Town and other boards. UHI anticipates giving a draft study report and presentation at the next WMC meeting. Selectman Gracie strongly suggests early application to Community Preservation Committee for grant match funds. Mr. Melo was tasked with asking Mr. MacInnes, Town Administrator, what the UHI final report presentation should look like.
4. **Harbor Management Plan:** Roger Race announced an upcoming meeting scheduled with NOAA regarding the economic impact of our waterfront and harbor to the Town. Ms. Sweriduk stressed the importance of this economic impact survey. Mr. Murphy asked if any other portions of the accepted management plan could be, or are moving forward. Mr. Race stated that the marina feasibility study, economic impact survey, seawall project grant, water quality monitoring grant collaboration with the Coalition for Buzzards Bay are all in motion. Mr. Gauvin announced that the Town is expected to receive \$3.1 million in American Recovery Act (ARA) funds to be spent by 2024. He suggests looking into this as a possibility for any harbor management plan projects. Mr. Murphy asked if ARA funds could be used for local match on Seaport Economic council grant projects. Mr. Race suggests applying ARA funds to the truly shovel-ready seawall reconstruction project. Mr. Murphy suggests that a new pumpout boat might be another shovel-ready purchase. Mr. Melo stated that pumpout equipment is run through Clean Vessel Act grant funds and suggests that ARA funds could be better applied to big projects such as the seawall and dredging.
5. **Dias Landing:**
 - a. **DEG and Security Cameras:** Mr. Race is scheduled to meet with the Town Administrator, Selectman Tatelbaum and Cody Haddad regarding a CZM grant application for softening the seawall with a sand berm. He stressed that this does not seem like the right approach for this area and it could negatively impact the proposed marina area and launch ramps. Repair or replacing the seawall to preserve parking space is a priority at this time.
 - b. **Street Sweeper:** Mr. Melo has asked DPW to run one of their sweepers though the Dias Landing to prepare it for the announced Public Access Board line painting. The Town would sweep that landing prior to Memorial Day each year since it was the assembly point for the

Memorial Day parade. Last year there was no parade, so it appears that two years of shells and debris have accumulated.

6. **Permit Renewals, late registration & revenue trend (FY21):** Mr. Melo described the ongoing permit renewal process with extra efforts being expended to reach every delinquent mooring permit holder. Annual renewals seem to be a struggle for some, same as every year. His staff is doing the best they can with what is available. A report from the Town Accountant is showing revenue increases for FY21 at this point to be at least 50% higher than last year at this point. He stressed that this was not a year-end report, but it highlights the increase in boaters and demands upon his limited staff. People have turned to boats as never before. This also makes it clear that the waterways department needs to hire a clerical assistant. The office has run without a year-round, part-time clerical presence for over five years at this point, and the needs of the boating public have increased significantly in that time.
7. **Seasonal Staffing:** A posting of help wanted continues on the Town Employment opportunities website section. Mr. Melo has reached out to Mass Maritime for seasonal Assistant Harbormasters. It appears that few qualified people are willing to work when needed for the pay offered by the Town. It is the same for Park and Recreation Staffing.
8. Mr. Hickey thanked Mr. Gracie for his interest in and assistance with waterways issues over the past years. He congratulated him on his recent reelection and discussed what the change in Board Chairmanship might impact his continued guidance. Mr. Gracie said that he would continue to assist where he can as a Board member.

Mr. Melo described the world-wide shortage and unavailability of larger outboards and the impact on the patrol/rescue boat ordered last year. He intends to continue operating with the vessels available, meeting the demands with what resources he has at his disposal.

9. **Next meeting** is scheduled (remotely) by Zoom for 4:00 p.m. on **5/25/2021**.
10. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous roll call vote at 5:02 p.m.