

MINUTES OF THE WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday June 22, 2021 - 4:00 p.m. Zoom Remote meeting
Zoom Id: 882 9072 8372
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, June 22, 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, Geoff Marshall and Patricia Sweriduk. Also present were Urban Harbors Institute (UHI) representative Allison Novelly, Select Board member Gracie, Finance Committee Representative Gauvin and HM Melo.
2. The **minutes** of the last meetings of 4/27/21 and 5/25/21 were not available to be reviewed as the DCTV recordings were not yet available.
3. **UHI Marina Feasibility Study Update, Contract Status:** Allison Novelly and Steve Bliven gave an update on the ongoing UHI feasibility study. Comparisons with surrounding marina are being detailed. The remaining steps toward completion were detailed. The draft report sent to the Commission will need to be tweaked slightly based upon suggestions received already. A plan for a public hearing is needed, as well as public meeting deliberations on acceptance by the Select Board. It was suggested that a combination public meeting and public hearing by the Waterways Commission might be the first step. Those steps should complete the current tasks before UHI, and allow for the next phase of design and permitting. The fall deadline for SEC grant funding toward that next phase was discussed.
4. **Harbor Management Plan:** Roger Race gave an update on activity of the subcommittee working with Select Board member Tatelbaum. This group is focused upon line-by-line implementation of the recommendations in the Harbor Management Plan. It will be an on-going project as listed recommendations and goals come within reach of the Town.
5. **Dias Landing:**
 - a. **CZM grant:** Mr. Race has been working with Cody Haddad and a Town-paid consulting engineering firm for an application to MA Coastal Zone Management. This round of available grant funding is addressing specialized storm resilience. The application is being submitted as a joint-effort with Parks and Recreation, treating the single seawall as one item needing reconstruction to protect Apponagansett Point.
 - b. **Street Sweeper – Landing:** DPW was kind enough to pass their street sweeper through the Dias Landing prior to the State Public Access Board arriving on Thursday June 10th to paint the parking lines and regulatory markings on a clear surface. Mr. Melo expressed his appreciation to DPW Director Tim Barber for this inter-departmental cooperation and the time the truck saved over his use of a broom to remove the sand and shell debris.
 - c. **Public Access Board and Line Painting:** Mr. Melo described some comments and written notes questioning the Landing closure on June 10th. One note pointedly mentioned the start of commercial fluke fishing season, asking “what the hell?” Mr. Melo wanted to stress that he did not pick this date, or even the time of year that painting was done. The State Public Access Board announced when they would be coming and what they would need (complete facility closure) for one day. Harbormaster Melo asked for a delay to the fall or early next spring, but was denied. He suggests that those feeling infringed upon for that day contact the agency responsible for the closure, and not his office.

6. **Seasonal Staffing / Clerical Position:** 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 without success.
 - a. Mr. Melo relayed a discussion between regional Harbormasters and universal uncertainty as to whether, and how the recent “police reform” legislation in MA could impact the training requirements for Harbormaster Law Enforcement Staff. He suggested that eventually an opinion from Town Counsel might be required instead of any self-serving analysis of the legislation done by the Harbormaster. He will discuss this with the Town Administrator.
 - b. One of the prominent issues of the new legislation (Chapter 253 of the Acts of 2020) is the need for Police Officers qualified to the level required of Harbormasters and Staff to attend a 200 hour “bridge” academy to increase their level of certification. The 5 weeks of advanced certification for at least three of our staff will present unique scheduling challenges.

7. **Open tasks for Harbormaster/Staff:** In an effort to give the “big picture” what might be going on behind the scenes and the day-to-day demands on the HM and staff, he was asked to compile a quick list of the “spinning plates” that they need to keep spinning currently. Mr. Melo described: 1) the SNEP watershed grant application; 2) the tasks required for the CZM resiliency grant application submitted on behalf of the Town, including an updated HM resume; 3) the on-going marina feasibility study; 4) pump-out boat gremlins that won’t quit this season; 5) endless mooring assignments and re-assignments; 6) proliferation of larger boats seeking to fit on the same moorings or swapped sites; 7) increase in “houseboats” due to the addition of one at D&T and the complexities involving Health Dept. concerns; 8) hiring of seasonal staff; 9) maintaining HM qualifications, whatever those might be; 10) DMF water quality testing, increasing harvest area opportunities, and general shellfishing issues; 11) a new state cybersecurity “assignment” assessment and instructional exercise that the office was required to complete at this time of year; 12) countless changes in contact data and vessel changes. Mr. Melo also noted a significant increase in boating volume on all fronts. Marinas are full, moorings are in high demand and more new people are turning to boating as their post-pandemic (?) boating activity than ever anticipated.

8. Mr. Geoff Marshall announced that his term on the Waterways Commission is up, and his schedule will not allow him to seek reappointment. He thanked the Commission for all the support and accomplishments seen during his tenure. He will remain committed to the continued success of the Commission and the waterways themselves. Mr. Hickey thanked Mr. Marshall for his commitment as a Waterways Commissioner and the time he has invested in making our award-winning harbor a main attraction in the Town and the region.

9. **Next meeting** is tentatively scheduled (remotely) by Zoom for 4:00 p.m. on **7/22/2021**, but may need revising depending upon the presentation schedule of the feasibility study.

10. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous roll call vote @ 5:20 p.m.