

## MINUTES OF THE WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

Monday August 23, 2021 - 5:30 p.m. Zoom Remote meeting

Zoom Id: 827 1313 9399

DCTV Archive: <http://dctv-18.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/7121?channel=2>

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly scheduled for Monday, August 23, 2021. This meeting was held remotely through zoom due to the Governor's COVID-19 restrictions on large public gatherings. This meeting was followed by a remote joint meeting with the Dartmouth SelectBoard.

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hickey. Present and participating were members: Gerald Hickey, Roger Race, Andy Herlihy, Keving Murphy Commissioners Warren Hathaway and Patricia Sweriduk 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, 7/27/21 were reviewed and discussed. It was moved by Andy Herlihy and seconded by Roger Race to accept and post the minutes as presented. All approved by roll call vote.
3. **Coastal Zone Management Resilience Grant award:** The Town was awarded a grant of \$107,000 for assessment of resilient reinforcement of the seawall that protects the north face of the Landing parking lot and park. Roger Race stressed his opposition to the creation of a sandbar outboard of the seawall. It was universally believed that the addition of sand would likely spread toward and worsen the launch conditions at the relatively new launch ramps. Run-off from the Gulf Road carries beach sand onto the ramps from the south. Discussions ensued of a sandbar vs. a seawall.
4. **Harbor Valuation Project:** relative to goals specified in the Harbor Management Plan, Roger Race has been working with NOAA and an entire group of scientists tasked with investigating and assigning Padanaram Harbor and the Dartmouth waterway's value to the Town of Dartmouth. This is part of an on-going project setting similar values for much of the Eastern Seaboard.
5. **Buzzards Bay Regatta (BBR) recap:** Andy Herlihy gave a recap of the annual regatta, hosted by the New Bedford Yacht Club from Padanaram Harbor. It was noted that the early July New Bedford Junior Regatta (NBJR) has eclipsed BBR in numbers and fame. Over 210 younger sailors from across the country sailed in the Junior Regatta. It has become one of the premier East Coast sailing events each year, and Dartmouth has been a popular host each July. The weather for the BBR limited sailing to one good Saturday. It is a much smaller event than in prior years, and that will hopefully keep the event manageable and unintrusive. Mention was also made of a visit by some vessels of the New York Yacht Club in August. The official port of call for that rendezvous was New Bedford Harbor, however some preferred staying overnight in, and outside Padanaram Harbor.
6. **UHI Marina Feasibility Update, Status:** Mr. Hickey gave an outline of the progress on the feasibility study recently completed by UHI and accepted by the Waterways Commission. Allison Novelly and Steve Bliven of UHI outlined the progress to date, noting that a joint meeting with the Select Board follows this Waterways meeting where

they will repeat the presentation made to the Waterways Commission. This will constitute a second public presentation of the study results. The Select Board will have the opportunity to ask questions, deliberate and vote on whether to accept the study or not. If accepted by the Town, the next step would likely be an application to the Seaport Economic Council for a design and permitting phase for a marina. It was noted that there is a November 1, 2021 deadline for the next round of grant funding. Mr. Bliven wants to stress to the public that matching funds for the Harbor Management Plan and project grants sought pursuant to the Plan have been made outside of general fund (taxpayer) funds. To date, waterways enterprise retained earnings have been used to complete any required matching funds. Mr. Murphy believes that greater funding resources could be required for the build grant match from the SEC. Mr. Murphy asked FinCom Representative Robert Gauvin if American Recovery Act federal funds could be applied to match an SEC build grant, and if so, how long would the Town have to spend those federal funds? Mr. Gauvin said that capital projects fall under one of the Act's categories, and it appears that the funds may be spent over more than one year into the future. Mr. Hickey stressed the importance of getting through both tasks (Town acceptance of the feasibility study, and approval to pursue phase 2 SEC grant funding for design and permitting) at the joint meeting tonight.

7. **Any other issues:** Mr. Murphy asked what the process was for having a replacement Commissioner appointed to replace Geoff Marshall. Mr. Marshall opted not to seek re-appointment. Mr. Hickey stated that the process would need to go through the Town Administrator and Select Board to solicit candidates. Mr. Murphy next asked what the status was on the legal question previously posed to Town Counsel (regarding 310 C.M.R. 9.38(2)(b) protection) for the Recreation area in Apponagansett Bay
  
9. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous roll call vote at 5:52 p.m.