

MINUTES OF THE WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday December 20, 2022 - 4:00 p.m. Zoom/Remote Meeting
DCTV RE-broadcast link: <http://75.147.58.17/CablecastPublicSite/show/8402?channel=2>

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly scheduled for Tuesday, October 4, 2022. This meeting was held remotely under the Governor's COVID-19 allowances for public gatherings.

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m by Chairman Hickey following a discussion with State Representative Chris Markey extolling the role of Seaport Economic Council funding, the importance that Lt. Governor Karyn Polito played in Dartmouth's successful applications, and the importance of continuing the pursuit of future funding. Present and participating were members: Gerald Hickey, Roger Race, Andy Herlihy, and Kevin Murphy. Also present was Assistant TA Cody Haddad and HM Melo. Absent were Commissioners Sweriduk and Salvidio.
2. **Minutes of the prior meeting of 10/4/2022** were moved for approval by Roger Race and seconded by Kevin Murphy. All voted to approve as presented unanimously.
3. **Trey Ruthven of Sustainable Coastal Solutions, Inc of Falmouth, MA** gave a 50 minute presentation on the CZM grant funded Apponagansett Point Resilience Study Report. The full report and Executive summary were posted on the Town website in advance of a similar presentation to the Select Board. Mr. Race asked if the "ownership issues" involving the landing property were understood by the Study group. Mr. Haddad stressed that the ownership issue was understood. Mr. Murphy asked if the seawall could be addressed sooner rather than later, since it was accepted by all and integral to saving the north face of the peninsula. Mr. Ruthven told the Commission that HM Melo has been deeply involved in this since the beginning and was very helpful to the outcome and report. Following Mr. Hickey's discussion on the economic importance of the launch ramps and parking to waterways access, Mr. Ruthven stated that he understood the importance, but stressed that the Town needs to understand the importance of fortifying the entire peninsula from sea level rise and storms, or the water will rise from the western side of the peninsula. He stated that increased public education and information on the risks will likely be next. A meeting between CZM and the Town Administration is scheduled for tomorrow (12/21) on the next steps.
4. **Interview Questions for WMC candidates:** Mr. Hickey distributed a summary and questions for potential future Commission candidates to answer in order for the Commission to make well-reasoned recommendations to the Select Board. Roger Race moved, and Mr. Herlihy seconded adoption of the questions presented. Mr. Race added that the questions should be sent to each candidate in advance of the interview meeting. All voted unanimously in favor of adopting those questions.
5. **NYYC announced cruise visit:** HM Melo relayed that he was contacted by a staff coordinator for the New York Yacht Club announcing that Padanaram would be the first stop on the Club's annual summer cruise. The announced arrival is Sunday July 30, 2023 for 100+ larger boats. No details have been offered but the New Bedford Yacht Club is meeting on the subject this month. The size and draft, as well as the number of boats expected sounds overwhelming for our harbor. Most will not find sufficient depth to navigate the channel. NBYC claims they cannot provide mooring or dock accommodations for most of the cruisers, and their dining facilities cannot be offered. Mr. Herlihy confirmed this information, noting that few specifics have been offered and NBYC is currently considering "doing what they can" to facilitate the visit at this time.
6. **Project Updates:** Roger Race announced that Mrs. Sweriduk has been doing a fabulous job, working feverishly on the Management Plan, Docks and Pier subgroup, and he suggests tabling further discussion until Patty Sweriduk is available at a next meeting.

7. **Seaport Economic Council:** Mr. Murphy gave an update on the favorable award vote at the meeting earlier this week at the Plymouth meeting of the SEC. Funding was awarded for the start of dredging study and permitting in Padanaram Harbor, as well as for the conclusion of the economic impact study of the impact of Dartmouth Harbors and Waterways on the local economy. A brief outline of the SEC funding benefits was presented. Roger Race moved to go after a study grant for the bottom of Rogers Street including storm run-off and sand control down there. He indicated that he would like to work with Andy Herlihy to develop that project proposal. Mr. Murphy asked for the budget availability for matching grant funds to understand the scope of possible funding match. Mr. Herlihy noted that there are a lot of things going on down there requiring a hard look at viable possibilities. Mr. Hickey asked that the Commission come up with any additional grant topics to pursue for their next meeting. SEC deadline for applications in the next round is May 1, 2023. Mr. Murphy is also working with HM Melo to get price quotes for the replacement of some of the existing dinghy racks at the Dias Landing. Mr. Melo will ensure that the correct process is followed on any projects like this. Many of the original Trek decking racks have outlived their life expectancy and will need to be replaced. The new wooden/metal design seems to have greater strength and longevity.
8. **Dias Landing Marina Project** HM Melo expects that a presentation of the marina project will take place at a January meeting of the Select Board. Mr. Murphy asked if there is any reason to wait for the Board meeting to get this on the radar of ConCom? HM Melo indicated that Foth is responsible for filing with ConCom and there are options to begin prior to the acceptance of the plan by the Select Board, subject to any revisions the Board wants, or waiting for their approval.
9. **Next meeting** is scheduled for 4:00 p.m. on 1/17/2023 via remote/zoom technology. Mr. Hickey added his condolences to Mr. Peter Chasse of DCTV on the passing of his father, Phillip Chasse. Phillip Chasse was a long-term public servant and mentor to many who were new to the workings of the Court system.
10. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous roll call vote @ 5:23 p.m.