

MINUTES OF THE WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday November 9, 2023 - 12:00 noon. Zoom/Remote Meeting

DCTV RE-broadcast link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2yMy85dkWI>

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly scheduled for Thursday, November 9, 2023. 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 Acting Chairman Roger Race. Present and participating were members: Andy Herlihy, Kevin Murphy, Dana Dornbusch, TJ Salvidio, and Patty Sweriduk. Also present was HM Melo and FinCom liaison Bob Gauvin, and candidates Eli Powell and Andrea Langhauser.
2. **Minutes of the prior meeting: 5/23/2023** minutes were moved, seconded and voted unanimously approved for posting as written.
3. **Commission Composition:** Patty Sweriduk moved, Dana Dornbusch seconds, all unanimous by roll to rearrange agenda and select new Chair and Vice Chair before new Commission member selection. **(1)** Patty Sweriduk moves, seconded by Kevin Murphy to appoint Roger Race as the new Commission Chair. Approved by unanimous roll vote. **(2)** Andy Herlihy moves, Patty Sweriduk seconds to appoint Patty Sweriduk as Vice Chair of the Commission. Dana Dornbusch asks if additional motions could be made, TJ Salvidio asks open nominations for vice chair to others. TJ Salvidio nominates Kevin Murphy for Vice Chair, seconded by Dana Dornbusch. TJ Salvidio then asks if the Vice Chair position could be filled by seniority of appointment time. Discussions ensue and both individual nomination motions are withdrawn in favor of a third motion made by TJ Salvidio, seconded by Kevin Murphy to appoint the Waterways Commission Vice Chair by seniority of appointment to be rotated annually. This third motion was unanimously approved by roll vote. TJ Salvidio told Roger Race that he does not get to rotate out after one year. It was determined that the longest tenure currently goes to Andy Herlihy for Vice Chair for the next year. Andy Herlihy accepted the Vice Chair position for one year. Roger Race will get the Town appointment list to determine seniority of members. The leadership of the Commission going forward is Roger Race as Chair, and Andy Herlihy as Vice Chair. **(3)** Introductions/Interviews of 2 candidates seeking one vacancy on the Waterways Commission: Andrea Langhauser speaks first, followed by Eli Powell. Motion is made, seconded and unanimously supported by roll vote to call the Commission into executive session to discuss candidate qualifications. Following executive session discussions, it was decided to continue for one week the vote to select/**recommend** a candidate to the Select Board for appointment. Chairman Race would like to speak individually to each candidate for options.
4. **2024 Season Waterways Rates:** HM Melo reported that increases in Department costs for fuel, labor, slip and office rent require modest increases. In 2023, the Department was forced to raise mooring permit fees and dinghy rack rental fees. This year he is proposing an increase of fifty cents per foot for Resident boat permit fees and one dollar for non-resident rates. He strives to keep boating affordable for all, especially since all costs associated with boating have increased significantly for all. Patty Sweriduk moved, TJ Salvidio seconded to adopt the proposed new rates of \$5.00 per foot for residents and \$11.00 per foot for non-residents. That was approved unanimously by roll vote.

5. **Refining Dartmouth Mooring Permit Regulations:** HM Melo suggests the need to better refine and clarify local Regulations to bring practices in line with State mandates. He brought up the ability to “keep” or direct the use a mooring through a “straw partnership” in a vessel with the name of a mooring permit holder maintaining a nominal listed interest in a vessel to effect a “transfer” of mooring privileges without deference to the actual and intended purposes of the mandated waiting list. The State limits mooring permit transfers to “immediate family members” only. The Town clearly defines what constitutes an immediate family member where the state does not specify. TJ Salvidio brings up the four types of recognized “partnerships” that could legally own a boat. HM Melo reminds that the recreational mooring permit must be assigned to an individual as listed on the waiting list and the mooring permit holder and boat owner must be the same entity generally. TJ Salvidio volunteers to work with the HM to clarify and refine the expectations going forward. At the least, a recreational mooring permit holder must be the **majority owner** and **managing partner** as listed on boat documentation or registration/title. All agreed that the practice of allowing minority interests in a vessel should be insufficient to continue a mooring permit and such would violate the purposes and spirit, if not the rule of the mandated waiting list. Mr. Salvidio will work with HM Melo to more clearly define acceptable forms or levels of boat ownership for mooring permit usage in Dartmouth.
6. **Public comment:** HM Melo announced the Holiday lighting and related festivities scheduled. Mr. Gauvin announced that he witnessed the Park Board vote to approve the memorandum of agreement for CPC funding as drafted by TA MacInnes.
10. **Next meeting** is scheduled for noon. on Thursday 11/16//2023 via remote/zoom technology for a quick one-item agenda regarding the Commission’s recommendation to the Select Board..
11. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous roll call vote @ 5:00 p.m.