

Meeting Minutes

Waterways Management Commission

Date: December 10, 2024

Time: 4:00 PM

Meeting called to order by: Chairperson Roger Race

Dartmouth Cable TV recording at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qJxnk_J5M0

Attendance. Roll call taken of members present: Roger Race, Andy Herlihy (left @ 4:20), Andrea Langhauser, Kevin Murphy, TJ Salvidio, Steve Melo, Eli Powell (at 4:10).

Absent: Dana Dornbusch

Guest: Chris Michaud, Dartmouth Health Director

- 1) Minutes from our meeting on October 15, 2024 were reviewed. **Motion** by Salvidio, seconded by Herlihy, to accept the minutes was unanimously approved.
- 2) Dias Landing Marina expansion update. Melo reported that construction is to begin the week of December 23rd, and summarized change orders to date. Some existing cross bracing needs to be replaced, but cost can be covered by the contingency funds. **Motion** by Salvidio, seconded by Murphy, to approve leaving the larger floating dock in place for the winter was unanimously accepted.

Melo reported that the Seaport Economic Council did not approve the application to upgrade the dinghy racks. These funds were to provide the needed match for the Community Preservation Committee award. Melo will ask CPC if project funding can be increased.

- 3) Citizen Petition to revise MassDEP Solid Waste Regulations. Chris Michaud presented a request for the Waterways Commission to sign a petition to request MassDEP to update its regulations relative to commercial composting operations as outlined in the draft letter to MassDEP Commissioner Bonnie Heiple, dated November 18, 2024. This is a unified effort of town land use and environmental boards that has been supported, to date, by the Select Board, Board of Health, Board of Public Works, and Conservation Commission. The initial concern raised by neighbors was related to odor. But further investigation by Michaud found high concentrations of nitrogen entering the adjacent wetland and surface waters. Agricultural composting operations would remain exempt from these regulations, as Michaud has found no problems with farm composting operations in town. Michaud would recommend regulatory changes on parity with other states, notably Maryland, which require third party oversight, water quality treatment and monitoring of leachate entering ground and surface waters. This is a long-term option, taking upwards of 3-5 years if MassDEP acted

promptly. **Motion** made by Langhauser, seconded by Murphy, to support the petition specifically with a focus on the need to address potential water quality impacts was unanimously accepted. Chairman Race will sign for the Commission with member names listed.

Chairman Race asked Michaud about plan for water quality sampling in tidal waters. Michaud acknowledged that the Select Board provided \$25,000 for limited bacteria and nutrient sampling in the Slocum River Watershed. Michaud plans to convene a group of interested parties in January to set up sampling protocols and select locations for 2 rounds of warm weather sampling. Race supported efforts and would like the Commission to stay involved.

- 4) Town Moorings Harbor Management Software (<https://www.townmoorings.com/>). Melo has a status update meeting scheduled later this week. He reported that the new database could be used to create a separate waiting list for the dinghy rack and marina slip rentals. Notice will be sent to have interested parties send in request by April 1 to rent slips/rack space in the upcoming boating season. Correspondence related to database actions can be created and stored together. Need to address how to process/store documents that are not related to database actions.

Options discussed for slip/rack rental – create a straddle year since boaters not likely to want to give up existing mooring/slip based on an estimated date of construction completion; token fee to have name added as a placeholder (like the mooring waiting list of \$15/year); create a lottery after the 2025 season. Cost for slip rental to be determined based on comparable costs in the harbor with fees to cover cost of operation and insurance.

- 5) Job vacancy for clerical position has been given to the Personnel Director for posting. Melo will also post on the Harbormaster website.
- 6) Harbormaster Updates. Melo reported that the FY24 Boat Excise tax bills will be sent out after the property tax billing is completed (for season that began July 1, 2023). In anticipation of the storm tomorrow, Melo has secured the buoy tree, and town landing floats. The pump out boat has been serviced and the rescue boat is scheduled for servicing.

Next Meeting to be held on Tuesday January 14, 2025 at noon.

Motion made by Salvidio, seconded by Race, to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 PM. Unanimously approved.