

Meeting Minutes

Waterways Management Commission

Date: February 11, 2025

Time: 12:00 PM

Meeting called to order by: Chairperson Kevin Murphy

Recorded on Dartmouth Cable TV at: <https://reflect-dctv-18.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/12220?site=2>

Attendance. Roll call taken of members present: Kevin Murphy, Andy Herlihy, Andrea Langhauser, Roger Race, TJ Salvidio. Harbormaster Steve Melo arrived at 12:05.

Absent: Dana Dornbusch, and Eli Powell

Guests: Bob Gauvin

1. Minutes from our meeting on January 14, 2025 were reviewed. Motion by Race, seconded by Herlihy, to accept the minutes was unanimously approved. *Langhauser to send approved minutes to the Select Board chair and the Town Administrator Office for posting.*
2. Pending/**Open Grant Projects**
 - a. Dredge study and balance of CPC matching grant funds – Melo reported that the final study has been received. Next step is to seek funds for permitting, dredging, and disposal, which Commission chose to not yet act upon.
 - b. Rogers Street SEC engineering study – Melo reported that engineering study of options to improve access to Clark’s Cove was submitted by the Town Administrator. No update. *Herlihy to reach out to Chris Vitali for an update. Murphy to check with Chris Vitali to request an extension on the grant for Roger Street.*
 - c. Apponagansett Peninsula highest and best use – SEC grant. Planning study was submitted by Town Administrator. Melo has no update. *Murphy to check with Chris Vitali to request an extension on the grant for planning study.*
 - d. Dias Landing Marina construction expected to be completed within a month.
 - i. Naming recommendation for marina. Race recommended the marina be named for Warren Hathaway, a local resident who has done as much as possible to activate the harbor and coached the high school sailing team. Motion made by Race, seconded by Herlihy, was unanimously approved. *Murphy to send recommendation to Select Board for its vote to name the marina.*

- ii. Gap exists between the old and new floats. Melo recommends Foth Engineering review how to best bridge the angle and height differences, if project budget allows.
 - iii. Public interest in filling spaces – Eighteen (18) people expressed interest in dinghy space. Interest in the boat slips was received for 200 linear feet of the 150 linear feet available.
 - iv. Rates for occupancy – Subcommittee reviewed the rates and services provided at private facilities in the harbor and compared with rates at other South Coast municipal marinas. Recommended rate is intended to cover costs of operation and maintenance and be set lower than private facilities. Preference will be given to Dartmouth residents as required by the CPC grant award. Melo noted that about three quarters of the initial response were from Dartmouth residents. Suggested rates, not including parking, are \$600 for dinghy space and \$100 per linear foot for boat slips. No commercial use has been requested, but Commission reserves the option to set a commercial rate and to define the term “commercial.” Motion by Race, and second by Herlihy, was unanimously approved.
 - v. Dates of occupancy/deadline for payment. Melo recommended that March 31 be the payment deadline and dates of occupancy be set from May 1 to October 31, the later being contemporaneous with when the bridge tender is present. Motion to accept the recommended dates was made by Salvidio, seconded by Race, and was unanimously accepted.
 - vi. Murphy suggested setting up a subcommittee to plan an opening ceremony for either Friday May 1 or Saturday May 2. Race further suggested that the Commission host a small reception at the Maritime Center following the ceremony. To avoid any conflict with boaters getting into their slips, the Commission agreed to set the date of the opening ceremony after the Select Board approves the marina name.
3. **Water Quality** monitoring/improvement report. Langhauser summarized the water quality efforts to date of Chris Michaud, Director of Health. Michaud has been meeting with state officials for guidance on preparing a Quality Assurance Plan for sampling this summer and is seeking a proposal for lab analysis from the UMass SMAST. Michaud anticipates sampling will be performed by the Health Department staff.

On a second issue, the MassDEP acknowledged receipt of the Town’s petition to have the solid waste regulations reviewed for revisions by email from Gary Cooper, MassDEP Director of the Bureau of Air and Waste, dated February 7, 2025.

- 4. 2024 Waterways **year-end report** - serving as Commission report to Select Board required under Town By-Law § 104-3. Melo sent the report to the Select Board and to all Commission members.
- 5. **FY2026** Preliminary Waterways Enterprise **Budget** & review process. Melo sent a proposed budget to the Finance Committee, and attended an initial meeting yesterday with Murphy and Gary Carreiro, Interim Town Administrator, in attendance. Past excise tax payments

have not yet been deposited into the Enterprise Fund. Assumed revenue was projected to be just over the anticipated expenses.

6. Ongoing **boat excise tax** saga. Murphy reported that Gary Carreiro will have information available to the Assessor's Office by the end of week for sending out the boat excise tax bills for two outstanding boating seasons. The bills will be accompanied by an explanation for sending the two bills simultaneously. Commission anticipates there will be confusion and possibly outrage from the boaters, including from those that may longer have boats in Dartmouth. Gauvin said that the first Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday and he will raise the issue.
7. 12 Rogers Street - Melo reported that the bond financing mortgage is now paid off for the Roger Street landing and parking area.
8. Request for private aid to navigation – In response to public comment from Mr. Paton at the last meeting, Melo researched installing private aids to navigation at the boundary of the thoroughfare on the north east side of the harbor. Melo summarized that private aids require detailed information be provided to the coast guard for permission to install and there is an ongoing maintenance cost. Salvidio suggested a local knowledge chart be sent out to boaters using the harbor. Melo recommended, and the Commission agreed, that any private aids to navigation be included in the dredging project, which includes an area in the north basin from the public landing to the bridge.
9. Database conversion update. Melo reported that training will be provided this week on use of the database. This year bills will be sent out on paper and electronically to those that provided an email address. Mooring applications will also be accepted on paper and electronically.
10. Public Comment - none

Next Meeting to be held on Tuesday March 11, 2025 at noon via Zoom.

Motion made by Herlihy, seconded by Race, to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 PM.
Unanimously approved.

Minutes prepared by Andrea Langhauser

Approved by the Commission on: March 11, 2025