

# Meeting Minutes

## Waterways Management Commission

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Date: August 12, 2025

Time: 12:00 PM

Meeting called to order by: Dana Dornbusch

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DCTV Recording of Meeting: Waterways Management Commission Meeting August 12, 2025:  
<https://reflect-dctv-18.cablecast.tv/CablecastPublicSite/show/12550?site=2>

1. **Attendance:** Members present: Dana Dornbusch, Andrea Langhauser. TJ Salvidio, Andy Herlihy, Roger Race, Eli Powell; Harbormaster Steve Melo
2. **Approval of Minutes.** The motion to accept (Andy Herlihy) meeting minutes from April 8, 2025, was (seconded by TJ Salvidio and) unanimously approved via roll call vote.
3. **Restructuring of Commission Leadership upon resignation of Kevin Murphy.**
  - a. Motion made by Andrea Langhauser that Dana Dornbusch move from Vice Chair to the vacancy in Chair position created by resignation of Kevin Murphy. Motion was seconded by TJ Salvidio with discussion that Dana should fill the remainder of the current term plus serve the following year also as Chair. Voted unanimously by roll call vote.
  - b. Roger Race moves, Andy Herlihy seconds the motion that TJ Salvidio shall become Vice Chair to fill the vacancy created by Dana moving up to Chair. Voted unanimously by roll vote.
  - c. Commission discusses the need and process to replace the missing member of the Commission to restore the number back to a full 7-member board. Potential candidates are sought and discussed.
4. **Recognized Mooring Service Provider Qualifications.**
  - a. Little Bay Marine LLC desires to become a new, approved “recognized mooring service provider” in Dartmouth. The Town has never adopted regulations or policies to define who may become a “recognized mooring service provider” as required by the adopted Dartmouth mooring regulations. This should be step one in this process. Andrea Langhauser strongly suggests that the policy route is more desirable than establishing regulations. HM Melo has been researching published qualifications required by neighboring waterfront municipalities as time allows this season. He intends to put forth a comprehensive list of qualifications that will fit in Dartmouth. Have Town Management review that proposed policy for compliance with general Town policy, especially insurance and liability limits. Eli Powell asked if there are

current insurance minimums in place as set by the Town? Andrea Langhauser suggests that Town Administration and Town Counsel will likely run the requirements through Town insurance underwriters. This is a work in process that will be brought back as a policy becomes more evident.

**5. On-going and planned project summaries.**

- a. HM Melo gave updates and summaries of several waterways projects to include: 1) the marina completion; improved dinghy/kayak storage structures; harbor dredging; landing parking lot repair and north wall reconstruction; launch ramp retaining wall repairs; Rogers Street ramp and facility; Apponagansett peninsula study and planning project; Database replacement; Waterways and natural resources staffing.

**6. Boat Excise Tax Issues and progress cleaning up old boat titles with the Commonwealth.**

- a. HM Melo reports that past year boat excise issues do persist, especially as the Town Assessor Office sends out demands and warrants for unpaid and unresolved boat excise bills issued. Too many boat owners ignored prior year excise bills or failed to follow through on proper abatement procedures. Those omissions are now being compounded by legislated excise collection policies. The Harbormaster and his staff continue to guide and assist wherever possible, but only the Assessor can legally and physically abate tax issues. In short, the Harbormaster Office provides the information, data and route to seek abatement of erroneous bills, but cannot make them “go away” as most boaters seek from him. It is an on-going struggle that will hopefully correct numerous outdated or incorrect state boat title records.

**7. Town Clean Water Group update.**

- a. Andrea Langhauser explained on-going water quality testing efforts, then turned discussion over to the HM to describe his work with Town Health Director Michaud . HM Melo detailed the after-hours precise collections to measure such factors as dissolved oxygen, pollutants and other indicators in the waters surrounding the Slocums River. Andrea Langhauser gave kudos to both Harbormaster Melo and BOH Director Chris Michaud for directing DMF attention to the Slocums River as an alternative to closures of growing areas impacted by the CSO problem.

**8. News/Happenings on the Waterways.**

- a. HM Melo described a multitude of successful Regattas and events that had occurred already on the waterways and around the Harbor. He highlighted the popularity of the Maritime Center during the recent Padanaram Village Festival, proving that resource is valuable to boaters and non-boaters alike.
- b. Andy Herlihy addressed the desire of UMASS Dartmouth girls sailing team to berth a support boat at the Hathaway Marina for the fall sailing season. Roger Race asks if the team has insurance and if they intend to pay for use of the dock space? Andy Herlihy said he would relay the questions to and ask for more information from Peter VanColen who made the initial inquiry to Andy Herlihy.

**9. Public Comment. None.**

**10. Next meeting/Adjournment. Next meeting scheduled for noon September 9, 2025. Meeting adjourned at 12:48.**