Waterways Commission Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2016

Chairman Dick Eckhouse called the meeting to order at 715 PM

Those in attendance; board: Dick Eckhouse; Pete Toppan; Bob McHugh; Fran Mc Millen; Keith Walo; Brad White; Dave Glancy and Mike Bearce- acting Harbormaster

Public present: Mike Lorusso; Dave Fredman; Howie Kreutzberg; Madeline Vachon ( Scituate Recreation); Rob and Michele Skolnick; Kevin Maguire; Brian Cronin and David Cedrone (WATD News)

Meeting called to order at 715PM

Agenda accepted unanimously- subsequently amended

Opening remarks; Dick indicated that it would be a preferred plan to brief a new Chair before the June meeting but this is not going to happen. The new board will make the choice of Chair. Members up for reappointment are Dick Eckhouse (stepping down); Keith Walo; Fran Mc Millen; Brad White. New appointees are to be town residents per the Board of Selectmen.

Brad commented on the new Residency requirement suggested by the Board of Selectmen. The Town Manager is not a resident. Fran McMillen is not a town resident. Should existing nonresident board members be grandfathered?

Bob McHugh suggested that members should be residents “in general”.

A free ranging discussion ensued. Peter commented that potentially a charter change was in order if the town residency stipulation was to be enforced.

Dick indicated that we NEED a Harbor Management Plan review.

Dick indicated that a Salt Marsh Retention group should be formed.

The safe boat is to be paid for by grant or retained earnings in the enterprise fund, or by bond issue. The question is unresolved.

Dick feels strongly that the GIS system needs to be up and running, but where are the funds to come from?

There was no action on item IV B- action item lists

V. A marinas will be open and running May 15

B Town Pier almost done; Doors, windows and air conditioning at Harbor Master Office- no action. Security cameras will be done at SMP; town pier and Harbormaster building

C maintenance dredging – no action yet: Kevin Cafferty has not yet submitted request

D no action on GIS system

E Salt marsh mitigation will be starting after July

F Nothing has been heard from the Town Administrator about the memorandum of understanding with Marshfield. No estimated time of completion. The comment was made that we also would like an MOU with Cohasset.

G mooring group recommendations- to be brought up in June meeting

H town pier rework- Mike Bearce says this is a moot point due to insurance settlements

VI. A Timber pier and float at Postscript Lane

Kevin Obrien the engineer presented for the owners Rob and Michele Skolnick

Broad board discussion; Mike Bearce mentioned close moorings. The Skolnicks control one and the other mooring owner is involved and in close communication. Brad White thought the order of conditions was onerous- no lighting; no boat in the mud at low tide. Shell fish mitigation is not needed according to the engineer.

Motion made by WWC; we have no objection- unanimously

B Clam constable program; large scale board discussion tabled for a more formal motion to come up in June.

C Grants- Dick Eckhouse and Mike Bearce have been seeking $400,000 in grants for the Safe Boat Program.

D Mike Bearce, acting Harbormaster is looking for a group to research how other towns deal with falsified mooring inspections; illegal use of 10a floats; noncompliant mooring installation and the like. Pete Toppan will contact Hingham; Brad White to contact Marshfield, Duxbury and Kingston. Dave Glancy to contact Hull and Cohasset.

E Proposed town pier rules and regulations have been submitted to the TA. Brad White asked about access to the ramp off the north face; this is a public dinghy dock. The pier itself is available to commercial vessels only – not private vessels.

F (amended agenda, and G, H and I) Tucker Patterson wrecked boat is to be gone by May 15th. This per Mike Bearce

G Lobster car against buoy 11 (green) in the channel is being moved per Fran McMillen

H Keith Walo says the North River mooring service will be open as of May 18th

I Keith Walo reinforced the May 15th mooring ball placement requirement

Vll. No discussion items

Adjournment at 8.36 PM