

**Waterways Commission
Minutes of Meeting
March 12th, 2014**

Members Present: Chairman C. Howard, Vice Chairman D. Parker, W. Hulse, A. Cloutier, L. Johnston, D. McCarthy, K. Grignon, M. Lambton

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: None (Harbormaster T. Clen vacation, Assistant Harbormaster R. Lemont sick time).

Guests Present: Selectman H. Schadt, Selectman W. Bergeron and 5 others.

Public Information: D. Parker stated that we had assigned twenty slips to those on the top of the slip list and that there were 10 slip changes made that had been requested from slip holders. D. Parker stated that Selectman H. Schadt, T. Clen, W. Hulse and Joe Callahan the assistant harbormaster as well as he had attended the meeting. D. Parker stated the meeting went well.

C. Howard stated that there was a meeting with Rick White the town administrator, members that attended the meeting was D. Parker, W. Hulse and C. Howard. C. Howard stated that we discussed the mooring field in Weir Creek and that a map of the area will be posted in the meeting room when the GIS department has it ready. C. Howard stated that a map of the harbor will also be posted so when we are discussing an area we can point it out so we all know what area is being discussed. C. Howard stated that there will be a protocol on how maintenance is done as well as slip and mooring changes are done. W. Hulse stated that if we look at the agenda for tonight's meeting, under the harbormasters report you will see the topics that will be updated at future meetings.

Minutes from March 12th, 2014: L. Johnston made a motion to accept the minutes with changes to be made; a second was made by A. Cloutier; vote taken; Motion passed 7 to 0.

Revenue Report: W. Hulse stated the February revenue was \$268,656.00 and the year to date was \$443,424.40. A. Cloutier stated that this figure puts the waterways about \$70,000.00 below last year's revenue totals. A motion was made by A. Cloutier to accept the report as stated; a second was made by L. Johnston; vote taken; motion passed 7 to 0.

Harbormasters Report: W. Hulse stated that the Rail Trail project at the old train bridge location in Bass River had a tentative starting date of November 1st, 2014.

New Business:

Enterprise Fund Discussion:

C. Howard stated that W. Hulse and Selectman W. Bergeron had made the trip to Wellfleet and had talked to the harbormaster and the town administrator on the enterprise fund that they have

in place for their waterways. C. Howard stated that this was also discussed at the Harbor Study meeting. W. Hulse stated that they did talk to the town officials in Wellfleet and they had good things to say about this type of fund. W. Hulse stated that they also talked to the town accountant about any problems they might have with this type of fund and found out that they have no issues at all with this type of fund.

Selectman W. Bergeron stated they had a great discussion with the official and asked if there were any down sides to this type of fund and they said there were no down sides to it. W. Bergeron stated in talking to the town accountant that they had no problems with the fund. W. Bergeron stated that all expenditures from the fund must be approved by town meeting. W. Bergeron stated that we still need to pay all the administrative fees from the account but there should be a break down of those fees so they can be better understood. W. Bergeron stated that with this type of fund you will see what the cost is in detail as well as all the income. W. Bergeron stated that this type of fund would be for the waterways of Dennis not just for the harbor. W. Bergeron stated that this type of fund must be permitted by the state and it will take a year or more. W. Bergeron stated you can bond from the fund to do major work, one good thing about this is you would be using the funds in the enterprise fund to pay the bond and not ask the tax payers to pay the bill. W. Bergeron stated that there are a number of towns in the state that use this type of fund for their waterways. W. Bergeron stated that some may ask about the money that will not go into the general fund of the town. W. Hulse stated that at the harbor study meeting the Dennis town accountant gave the true number of what the waterways brought in last year. W. Hulse stated the number was \$651,000.00 and that was the true number. W. Hulse stated he asked about the number he was given of \$891,000.00, she then broke it down as the \$113,000.00 for dredging comes out of the general fund and that Bass River park fund would not be part on the waterways fund. This would bring the total down to the \$651,000.00. W. Hulse stated that this total would not support the waterways enterprise fund with the current fee structure at this time. W. Hulse stated this needs to be looked at now before this type of fund is acted on. A. Cloutier asked what the impact would be on the general fund. W. Bergeron stated that the fund can be set-up in anyway you may deem necessary. A. Cloutier asked about the percentage of income from the waterways of Dennis. W. Bergeron stated that in the past years that the state determined that the waterways of Dennis brought in to the town about \$5,000,000.00; things have changed over the years and now you could say that the waterways bring in a significant amount of money to the town and its related businesses. A. Cloutier stated he was asking about the cost to the town if the funds did not go into the general fund, would that not increase the tax rate of the town. A. Collette asked what he was missing on this discussion; if W. Hulse stated that the fees would need to go up then there would not be a negative effect on the tax rate. A. Collette stated that at this time the town is subsidizing the waterways with tax money, this would stop with the increase in fees. W. Hulse stated that the effect would be about \$600,000.00 out of a \$30,000,000.00 town budget or 1/60th of the budget.

H. Schadt stated they had asked the auditors to look at what effect this would have if the waterways and the beaches, she strongly suggested that we wait for the results of that evaluation before you make a discussion on this type of fund. A. Cloutier stated he sees that the effect on the tax rate would be very minimal and thinks we need more information before we make a discussion on this type of fund. L Johnston asked who in the state has control over this type of fund. C. Howard stated the revenue department has control over the types of funds to be developed in the state. D. Parker stated he thinks H. Schadt has the best plan and to wait to hear from the town accountant. D. Parker stated he wanted to thank W. Hulse and W. Bergeron for

taking their time to travel to Wellfleet and get the information. D. Parker stated that A. Cloutier has asked some great questions and we should get the answers before we commit to any type of funding plan. C. Howard stated that this question on this type of fund has been asked for many years and this is a good time to look it over and ask others what they think.

Old Business:

Harbor Study Up-date: W. Hulse stated the next meeting Harbor Study Meeting will be on the 19th 4:00 PM at the annex. W. Bergeron stated that at the last meeting the information was breath taking as to costs. W. Bergeron stated that before we do any dredging that we look into the possibility of stabilizing the peat banks at the harbor. W. Bergeron stated that W. Hulse and someone else would be attending the Conservation work session to see what would be allowed at the harbor. W. Hulse stated he would not be able to attend the meeting and asked if someone from the waterways commission could attend in his place.

Discussion for a Town parking sticker for the South side ramps:

C. Howard stated that it was discussed at the meeting and other towns would be contacted to see what they are doing on fees on the south side parking areas. A. Cloutier stated that mooring holders are the ones that are having a problem finding a parking place and there should be something done about the problem. C. Howard stated we are still looking at a solution to the problem. W. Bergeron stated that the dates have changed this year and this may help with the problem.

Discussion on extended parking hours for boating season 2014:

C. Howard stated that we did talk about it at the meeting. W. Hulse stated that the letter that was voted on at the last meeting was sent to the Selectmen and to the Town Administrator. C. Howard stated that there may be a question on the deposit that would need to be made after hours.

C. Howard stated that Selectman W. Bergeron would like to ask a question. W. Bergeron asked to have security as an agenda item on the next waterways meeting. C. Howard stated that we had talked about security at the harbor and that he would be putting up new gates and is looking at a camera system for the harbor as well.

L. Johnston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 PM; a second was made by A. Cloutier; Vote taken; Motion passed 7 to 0.

Respectfully Submitted by W. Hulse

**Next Meeting April 9th, 2014 at 6:00 PM
Dennis Town Hall, Lower Small Conference Room
485 Main St. South Dennis, MA.**