

SCITUATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

The Waterways Commission meets monthly, in collaboration with the Harbormaster, to discuss initiatives and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen to improve our waterways. We focus on the needs of our commercial fleet, recreational boaters, sportsmen, and everyone who takes advantage of our natural waterways resources. The following key initiatives and opportunities were addressed this year:

- Completion of most of the implementation of the landscape project at the Scituate Marine Park started in the previous year.
- Installation of the handicapped-accessible gangway and connecting floats so all three docks are interconnected.
- Completion of the Scituate Boat Works building.
- Funding for renovation of the Town Pier has been secured and we hope to start work in 2013.
- Secured through the harbormaster an additional pumpout boat for Scituate Harbor which was put into service this season. We continue to promote ongoing education and awareness of the No Discharge Zone designation approved by the EPA, for all Scituate coastal waterways and now coastal Massachusetts.
- Continued to promote the importance of Scituate waterways at the state and regional level.
- Reviewed dock, marina, and mooring requests in the South River and Scituate Harbor.
- Received funds to design the engineering plans for maintenance dredging at the entrance to the South River.
- Updated the Waterways website content to be more robust with added maritime links to programs and informational sites helpful to users of our waterways.
- Considered regriding the harbor or re-establishing the GIS system developed several years earlier.
- Moved the Humane Society building to its permanent resting place on pilings with the SMP.
- Established a new policy for slip deposits to know earlier who would be returning.
- Requested the BOS change the policy regarding winter sticks in the harbor.
- Created a canoe and kayak storage area under the SMC building.
- Started work on Phase II of the Harborwalk
- Worked with the Marshfield Waterways Commission and Marshfield harbormaster to secure commitments from Mass Highway Department who will assume financial responsibility for the problem created on the Humarock side below the Sea Street Bridge. They will give money to DCR, who will, in turn, award it to the town to complete the dredging required. This portion of dredging may be completed before the next boating season.
- Scituate Maritime Center at the Scituate Marine Park
 - Continued to raise funds to maintain and improve the Scituate Maritime Center. The Maritime Center provides classroom and meeting space for the Scituate Recreation Sailing program and the CORSE program which enables physically challenged children the opportunity to participate in a week-long sailing event. Additional information can be found at www.scituatemaritimecenter.com.
 - Many volunteers, individual contributors, and corporate sponsors continue their support in developing the SMC. This facility has become the centerpiece of our Harbor, to be used and enjoyed by everyone visiting it.
 - The picnic area near the ramps to the docks has been improved through landscaping, rope fencing, and the addition four new picnic tables built as an Eagle Scout project.
 - Plans are in the works for some modifications to the building to provide storage for furniture and secondary access to the meeting area.

We look forward to working with our Harbormaster, Mark Patterson, and advising the Board of Selectmen regarding ongoing waterways opportunities and issues. As always, we welcome your participation at our monthly meetings. Typically we meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:15pm at the Scituate Maritime Center.

Respectfully submitted.

Dick Eckhouse, *Chairman*

Peter Toppan, *Vice Chairman*

Mark Patterson, *Harbormaster*

Commission Members:

David Glancy

Mary McLaughlin

Fran McMillen

Larry Niland

Keith Walo

Brad White

Associate Members:

Tom Anderson, Brian Cronin, Jeff Frank, Michael Gibbons, Steve Guard, Don Hourihan, Howie Kreutzberg, Bob McHugh, John Murphy, Bill Schmid, Mike Sullivan