

**Waterways Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013**  
**Scituate Maritime Center**  
**7:15 pm**

**I.Meeting called to order at 7:15pm by Chairman Eckhouse**

In attendance: Robert McHugh, Vin Lanoue, Dave Glancy, Keith Walo, Chairman Dick Eckhouse, Pete Toppan, Brian Cronin, Howie Kreutzberg, Selectman Rick Murray, Ethan Maass, Jeff Frank, Fran McMillen, Kathleen Rose Cerruti, Harbormaster Mark Patterson, Tom Gavin, John Murphy

**II.The agenda was unanimously accepted by the WWC.**

**III. Acceptance of April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 minutes** – Dave Glancy made the motion, Pete Toppan 2nd, the WWC voted unanimously in favor.

**IV.Opening remarks by Chairperson Eckhouse**

**A. Recycling Initiative:** A letter has been submitted to the BOS recommending recycling at the marinas.

**B. WWC Action List:** A spreadsheet has been created in an effort to keep track of projects. The Chairman urged the WWC that the group should be proactive and not let projects ‘fall thru the cracks’. The WWC is doing a good job and follow up is necessary in order to continue. In some cases, the outcome is not as important as the fact that definitive solutions were reached. The Chairman would like comments from the WWC members.

**C. SMC:** The new floor has been completed and it seems to echo less.

**V.Old Business**

**A. Marinas** – The Harbormaster said that he is on schedule to open May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**1. Cole Parkway**

**2. Scituate Marine Park**

- B. Update on joint dredging project with Marshfield** – The Harbormaster said that the Sea Street grand opening has happened. The Town of Marshfield has received \$200K for dredging under the Sea Street Bridge. Permitting is currently being done for dredging between Sea Street and the Marshfield Yacht Club. CLE Engineering is working on a plan for the North end of the South River. This will be funded thru the DCR; \$50K has been awarded for Design, Engineering and Permitting, which may be completed by Nov '13, in time for the next dredging season. Someone asked why CLE is usually used. In this case, they are already working with Marshfield and since the contract was less than \$5K, we went with them as well.
- C. Suggested changes to Mooring Regulations** – The proposed changes to the winter stick regulations are not on the BOS agenda yet. There was a question whether this is linked to the season dates? Should the season be from May 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>? Also, are the winter sticks a hazard? Logic follows that winter sticks and marina dates should coincide. Selectman Rick Murray said that once an agreement has been reached he would make sure it is put on the BOS agenda. He also reminded everyone that the WWC and the Harbormaster could have different opinions/votes on this matter.
- D. Marina recycling** – The Harbormaster has funding and has scheduled recycling service for both marinas for this season. Kathleen Cerruti offered the Harbormaster any PR help he may need.
- E. Mooring insurance considerations** – Vin Lanoue presented information he gathered regarding boat insurance regulations. The towns of Plymouth, Duxbury and Marblehead don't require any. Wellfleet and Tisbury do require it and said that it was not difficult to implement the regulation. Insurance to cover the potential cost of \$250–350K to remove a wreck could cost \$100/year. There was a question regarding what was covered? A boat that has broken free? Sinking? What about transients? Chairman Eckhouse said this would not include transients. Bob McHugh asked if this should be a state law? Fran McMillen asked if it would be easily enforceable? An example of what this insurance would cover is: if one boat breaks loose from it's mooring and sinks another boat. Selectman Rick Murray said that when he had a town boat slip, there was an insurance requirement. He asked whether this is the same idea, for moorings? Yes. The original question was: are other boats insured if they hit me? One member asked whether the harbor could have blanket coverage for it's 600 moorings? Vin Lanoue will find out. Ethan Maass pointed out that perhaps there is no precedent for this. If a boater causes another boat to sink, they will get sued regardless. Regular boat insurance covers sinking. Ethan also pointed out that a person should not have to name a 3<sup>rd</sup> party (i.e. the town) as insured. The Harbormaster clarified that

with the moorings the individual owns the gear, a mooring company maintains it, and they are granted permission for access to the spot by the town.

- C. Continuing discussion on regriding the harbor** – Chairman Eckhouse asked if an RFP is out to update the computer system? The Harbormaster said that he would have a date for moving forward by the next mtg.
- G. Canoe and kayak storage at the SMC** – The Harbormaster will have a date by the next mtg. As well as an estimate of work to be done, etc.
- H. Rinse off shower at the SMC** – same as above
- I. Delineation of parking areas at SMP** – Chairman Eckhouse asked where we stand with this? The Harbormaster said that Brian at the SBW has a field striper and has agreed to use it every Friday. Selectman Rick Murray asked if there would be signs or directors to point out the parking areas? Yes.
- J. Scituate Boat Show** – July 6<sup>th</sup>, rain date July 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be 14 interesting boats all around the harbor. The SMC will be open, as well as historical buildings. The boat launch will be running as a water taxi/tour boat. A pamphlet is going to be made to advertise. The Harbormaster has been canvassing businesses, etc. for involvement and/or sponsorship. NOAA will be involved as long as they don't get called out for any reason. The Coast Guard will not be in their building b/c of the storm damage that remains to be repaired. \*\*Side note regarding the potential lack of Coast Guard presence in the harbor this season: Selectman Rick Murray stated that this is a safety concern. The Harbormaster and Chairman Eckhouse will follow up with this issue.

## **VI. New Business**

- A. Hull of the fishing boat that sank near the SMP** – The Harbormaster has called Tucker Patterson but has not heard back. There is no environmental risk right now and it is not in navigable water. Selectman Rick Murray asked if the town could pull it up? The Harbormaster said yes, and he didn't think it would be a problem.

## **VII. Discussion Items**

- A. Proposed Change to Mooring Contract (Season Beginning and Ending Dates)** – Chairman Eckhouse asked how people felt about May 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup>? The Harbormaster pointed out that not many people want to be in that early. Global warming causes temperatures to be warmer but also more storms. The Harbormaster expressed concern over getting ready that early and putting everything away so late. Someone made a point about creating a temporary placement in order to make space and move around in the boat yard more easily.

Someone else suggested a survey be conducted. The Harbormaster said that he would do a survey of neighboring harbors/towns. Pete Toppan questioned whether manpower and the budget would be affected? Selectman Rick Murray said a survey of boaters would be worthwhile. People may not ask to be in the water earlier because they don't think it is possible. **Using a partial email list of boat owners who rent slips the harbormaster will conduct an informal poll to find out how many would be interested in extending the season.**

**B. Dave Glancy** – The Scituate Historical Commission is having a reenactment of the War of 1812, on June 8<sup>th</sup>, in honor of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Matt Browne can be contacted for more information.

**C. Selectman Rick Murray** – The SMC building permit has been signed off, the contract signed, and the town has agreed to contribute necessary funds above the original \$16K.

**D. Dave Glancy** – The Scituate HS Sailing team had their first home meet and it went well. John Murphy asked about early/late in the season access to their sailboats? Perhaps this could be tied in with the previously discussed temporary placement?

**VIII.Adjournment** – The next meeting of the WWC is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:15pm, at the SMC. Chairman Eckhouse adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm.