

Waterways Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday September 4th, 2013
Scituate Maritime Center
7:15 pm

1. Meeting Called to Order – By Chairperson Eckhouse at 7:15.

In attendance: Dick Eckhouse, Mark Patterson, Bob McHugh, Larry Niland, Vin Lanoue, Don Hourihan, Tony Lemish, Keith Walo, Pete Toppan, Jaime Noonan, Ethan Maass, Fran McMillen, Dave Glancy, Brad White, Brian Cronin, Jeff Frank

2. Acceptance of Agenda – The agenda was accepted unanimously.

3. July 10th minutes – To be held.

4. Opening remarks – Chairperson Eckhouse brought copies of the CPC request, John Vigilante’s proposal and assorted Transient Agreements for the review of the WWC.

5. Old Business

A. Marinas – Patterson

B. Mooring Rules & Regs accepted by BOS – Chairperson Eckhouse stated that the BOS has allowed the Harbormaster to plan for an early opening. Temporary space will be available May 1st.

C. SMP dumpster enclosure – Harbormaster Patterson stated that this would hopefully be done soon.

D. Finish SMP landscaping – Harbormaster Patterson said that this has been put off until spring. He also presented a landscape plan done by Kennedy’s and talked about environmentally friendly options to deal with the weeds in this area.

E. Mooring insurance considerations:

Chairperson Eckhouse said that it was his experience, as he sailed this season, that most towns did not have a transient agreement. He visited a few towns that had liability insurance, which could be purchased by raising mooring fees.

Keith Walo asked what everyone’s feeling was about the fact that the mooring company is held liable in almost any situation. Chairperson Eckhouse agreed that the admiralty lawyer did state that they would go after everyone concerned.

Peter Toppan suggested the WWC investigate the cost of town liability insurance to cover all boats in slips and marinas. The Harbormaster asked the WWC to also talk to another town that does this already. The BOS will

want any relevant information in order to make an educated decision. Vin Lanoue volunteered to look into this issue further.

F. Harbor and Marina Management:

Harbormaster Patterson stated that the Plymouth County Commission had a meeting in Duxbury and talked about the potential for getting a county dredge. After an initial County investment there would be a \$95,000 cost per town. There were many questions to be answered yet, and there will be more meetings to come.

Also, Chairperson Eckhouse attended a meeting with the Marshfield Harbormaster and the MWWC. Dredging will occur in three phases: under the Sea St bridge, Sea St to MYC, and in Scituate, where shoaling has occurred at the mouth of the South River.

G. Update on pump-out system in harbor and North/South rivers:

The program has enabled the pump-out of over 7,200 gallons, a couple of hundred boats. Also, the FY14 grant of \$11,000 is a substantial increase from the previous \$5,000.

One comment was that “strictly forbidden to pump out commercial” should be taken out of the contract since there is no specific commercial pump-out available.

H. Jaime Noonan gave a sailing program update:

It was a great season. The ‘420 program’ had better participation this summer than previously and afternoon racing was very successful. However, the ‘take your parents sailing night’ did not do very well. The chase boat was much better this year. All of the boats are out of the water. A plan is needed for the 420 docks. Also, one or two of the Mercury’s will be auctioned.

6. New Business

- A. Need signs and waste bags for dog litter on park grass.
- B. Need transient dinghy space for 2 hour or less tie-ups:
Harbormaster Patterson said people informally use the space at Cole Pkwy. He would like to ask them to use space at the town pier instead. A public dingy dock is needed. Brad White suggested the area near the Jericho ramp also.
- C. Brad White: South River Ramp improvements need to be done before condos are completed.
- D. Brad White would like to refresh the website and possibly add a counter? He also wants to make a ‘Visit Scituate.com’ sign.
- E. Tony Lemish asked if the Town could add a third tier rate for honorably discharged veterans. The WWC suggested looking at what other towns do, talking to the veteran’s council, and to the veteran’s agent.

- F. Dave Glancy stated that the SMC has an ADA compliant ramp, and asked 'do we have ADA compliant slips'? Also, how is that administered?
- G. Keith Walo: What will be done about people on mud moorings?
- H. Transient issues to be discussed on next agenda.

7. Discussion Items

- A. Shallow water around AtoZ bridge – A New buoy was put out three weeks ago. Chairperson Eckhouse has an updated list of all markers, which he gave to the Coast Guard.
- B. Don Hourihan said he thought people should mark their floats so moorings that are problematic can be tagged to the person responsible.

8. Adjournment – Chairperson Eckhouse 8:30pm