

Waterways Commission Meeting
Thursday September 6th, 2012
Scituate Maritime Center, 119 Edward Foster Road
7:15 pm

I.Meeting Called to Order – Eckhouse, 7:15 pm – In attendance Commission Members: Chairperson Dick Eckhouse, Harbormaster Mark Patterson, Fran McMillen, Mary McLaughlin, Keith Walo and Dave Glancy. Also in attendance were the BOS liaison Rick Murray and approximately 15 citizens.

II.Acceptance of Agenda – Eckhouse – accepted unanimously

III.July 12th minutes – Eckhouse – accepted unanimously

IV.Opening remarks

A.New billing policy – Patterson – The new policy has been implemented and was summarized as follows: a \$400 non refundable deposit will be due Nov. 1st with the remainder to be billed in January and due March 1st. The goal is that fees will be collected and openings made available in a more timely manner.

V.Old Business

A.Marinas – Patterson

1.Scituate Marine Park

a)The Upland Park project. The project is 95% done with some proposed plantings to be installed after Sept. 15th. The remaining money is being held as a retainer and will be paid after one year.

b)Dumpster location. There does not seem to be an ideal location for the dumpster. Screening was suggested, perhaps plantings or even a fence. Dave Glancy suggested looking into whether there is a bi-law requiring such a screen and what it should be.

c)Canoe and kayak storage. The new rack has been completed. It is located under the SMC building and can hold 9 boats. The question remains whether a walkway or boardwalk will be the best way to access it. Also an audience member suggested designating one parking spot for canoe/kayak loading. Dave Glancy brought up the question of how the availability of the storage spaces will be made known as well as what the fee will be. The Harbormaster will handle this.

d) New picnic tables, trash bag holders, rope railings. These items have been installed, as well as stone benches. Also, the Beautification Committee did a great job with plantings.

2. New pump-out boat. A new pump-out boat was purchased 3 weeks ago with 75% reimbursement from the state, as well as \$8,000 per year from

the state to assist with operating costs. It will service Scituate Harbor as well as the rivers as need be. BOS liaison Rick Murray suggested outlining for patrons the procedure for obtaining pump out services. The Harbormaster agreed.

VI. Other Business

A. Regriding the harbor – Eckhouse – Chairperson Dick Eckhouse gave a presentation on the Scituate Harbor Management System by ArcGIS Marina Manager. It is a software program that incorporates 2007 aerial photographs as well as other information and a database from the Harbormaster to manage the Scituate Harbor as well as the North and South Rivers. He proposed that a nominal amount of money be designated to update this system in lieu of hiring CLE Engineering to do the entire regriding project.

B. Dredging – Patterson – Scituate received \$50,000 from the DCR for the design, engineering and permitting required to dredge the South River. This may end up being a cooperative project with the Town of Marshfield, which also received funds. Results of NOAA surveying are expected within a number of weeks, which will help determine the extent of dredging required.

C. Rehabilitation of Town Pier – Patterson – The Town of Scituate received a grant of \$325,000 from the Seaport Advisory Council, which represents 75% of the funds required to rehabilitate the commercial fishing pier. The remaining 25% of the funds needs to be approved at the Special Town Meeting on Nov. 13th. We already have the first \$50,000 to get started with proposals and the Harbormaster suggests designating someone to act as a project manager to coordinate between consultants and the DPW. The scope of this project as well as timing are yet to be determined but the Waterways Commission will try to present the proposed improvements at the next meeting.

VII. New Business – Eckhouse

A. Dave Glancy asked whether there had been a change in the winter stick regulation and the Harbormaster stated that there had not. Glancy also asked about the location of docks to be pulled from the water to which the Harbormaster responded that the Jericho parking lot is the best location.

B. Keith Walo asked about the May 15th deadline for removing winter sticks. The Chairperson responded that the Commission will discuss it at the next meeting.

VIII. Discussion Items

A. It was put forth by Scott Hamernick of the Scituate Boat Works that once vehicles get two rows deep in the parking area, equipment cannot get by. The Chairperson suggested getting cones from Mike Breen to direct vehicles.

B. A question was asked regarding the parking of Caterers and other trucks at the SMC during events. The Commission stated that they can look at reconfiguring the parking if necessary.

C. Harbormaster Mark Patterson discussed the phasing plan for Scituate's Harborwalk. He stated that similar projects are becoming increasingly popular and are being funded to further enhance tourism and public access to waterfront areas. He would like to see the town acquire CPC funding for phase 2 which would be to extend the Harborwalk from the pier to Jericho beach, which is a historically significant length of road. Beyond that, phase 3 would be a route across marshland to Scituate Marine Park. While this phase would be costly he believes that it could be proposed to both the Seaport Advisory Council and CPC, requesting 50% of the funds from each. BOS liaison Rick Murray suggested putting the Harborwalk plan in writing for the BOS as they deliberate on the use of the Pier 44 property.

D. The next meeting is scheduled for the first Thursday of the month, which will be Oct 4th, at 7:15pm.

IX.Adjournment – Eckhouse 8:15pm

Submitted by Simone Zimmerman