

Waterways Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 7th, 2012
Scituate Maritime Center, 119 Edward Foster Road
7:15 pm

I. Chairperson Eckhouse called the meeting to order at 7:15pm.

Members Present: Dave Glancy, Fran McMillen, Mark Patterson, Chairperson Dick Eckhouse, Peter Toppan, Keith Walo, Mike Sullivan

Also Present: Bob McHugh, Jeff Frank, Brian Cronin, Jamie Noonan, Tom Anderson, Mike Gibbons

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

III. Acceptance of Past Minutes – Motion to accept the meeting minutes of October 6th, 2012 was made by Fran McMillen, 2nd by Dave Glancy, the WWC voted unanimously in favor (6-0).

IV. Opening remarks – Eckhouse

A. Reminder on slip deposits due 12/1 – Patterson

B. Reminder on mooring waiting list by 12/31 – Patterson

V. Old Business

A. Marinas – Patterson

1. Cole Parkway (Glancy Crane and Rigging is now being used.)

2. Pump-out requests; one number to call: This topic was discussed, and also whether using the flag system would be best. There was the question of whether transients would be able to use the flag system. To that, Fran McMillen answered that transients generally contact the launch for pump out. Brian Cronin, a member of the audience, stated that when traveling, he usually calls the harbormaster on the radio. Another member of the audience stated that one number would offer the best customer service. Fran McMillen pointed out that the way it is, he does any pump outs early or late in the day because the Harbormaster's office only does them between the hours of 8am and 4pm. Chairperson Eckhouse stated that this item will be left open for future discussion.

- B. Update on winter sticks bylaw** – Fran McMillen did a survey of winter mooring policies in other communities (see attached). All sorts of different scenarios exist, depending on ice conditions. Some towns don't require plastic winter sticks, but require that they sit in the water at a 45-degree angle. Some towns take out all moorings each season. Beginning and ending dates of the season varied, with the winter sticks being used beginning between 10/1 and 11/1 and coming out anytime between 4/1 and 6/1. Mr. McMillen found that towns tended to have a policy that would allow for winter sticks to either sink below the ice or hold up to the ice, depending on the area. Hingham was the only town, that Mr. McMillen found, that required plastic. He also found that every town pretty much agreed that there should be a visible white end. It was suggested that perhaps revising the regulations to dictate one type of winter stick was premature? Originally, the regulation change the WWC was seeking was only to change the beginning and ending dates of the season. The Harbormaster agreed that the dates are the most important aspect of this discussion. He also shared with the WWC that he found out that the regulation change, regarding said dates, would only require a BOS vote, not a town meeting vote. The Chairperson stated that the discussion on type of winter sticks would be left open.
- C. Update on rehabilitation of Town Pier** – The Harbormaster stated that the towns' 20% contribution, required along with the grant monies awarded, would be voted on at the STM on Nov. 13th. The meeting will be at 7pm in the SHS auditorium.
- D. Update on dredging** – Mass Hwy has accepted financial responsibility for the problem created 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 even be completed before the next boating season.
- E. Update on regriding the harbor** – A question came from the audience asking what the immediate benefit of regriding the harbor would be. The answer was that DCR does take into consideration whether a town has regrid their harbor when considering them for any future funding.

VI. Other Business

- A. Update on 420 docks to be put in Jericho parking lot** – All of the docks are already out of the water. The Harbormaster thanked all of the parties involved in coordinating these efforts, especially before the arrival of Hurricane Sandy.

VII.New Business – Eckhouse

A.Phase II of Harborwalk – A Harborwalk extending from the Lighthouse to First Cliff would be ideal. There is a proposal in to CPC to improve the walkway from the commercial dock, past the Bates House, and all the way to Museum Beach. There was a question from the audience whether the project vision is documented somewhere? The Harbormaster stated that there are numerous references to and plans depicting a Harborwalk for Scituate. Peter Whitman did renditions for Phase I and is working on Phase II renditions as well as a ‘site plan’ of the entire vision. There was another question, where the Harborwalk would end on First Cliff? To that, the Harbormaster said that ideally it would continue from the Scituate Marine Park, thru natural areas, to the NOAA facility. The possibility of buying the McDonald property plays into the final layout of the walk.

Peter Toppan made a motion for the WWC to write a letter of support for the Harborwalk project, Dave Glancy 2nd the motion, the WWC voted unanimously (6–0) in favor.

VIII.Discussion Items

Someone asked how Museum Beach got its name? Dave Glancy said that there was a Mossing Museum there at one time.

Peter Toppan shared that the new wind turbine site is very near to the old site of Scituate’s first windmill.

IX.Adjournment – Chairman Eckhouse adjourned the meeting at 7:50pm. The next meeting of the WWC will be held on Wednesday, 12/5/12, at 7:15pm at the Scituate Maritime Center.

Submitted By:

Simone L. Zimmerman