



TOWN OF SCITUATE

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MEETING MINUTES Waterways Commission Meeting Wednesday, April 7, 2021 7:00 PM

REMOTE Meeting

Meeting conducted pursuant to the March 12, 2020 modifications to the Open Meeting Law made by Governor Baker pursuant to the state of emergency due to COVID-19. This meeting was live broadcast by SCTV.

Commission Members Participating Remotely: Chairman, Mike Gibbons, Vice Chairman, Rick Murray, David Friedman, Brian Kelly, Craig Rosenquist, David Sincoski, Stephen Mone; Scituate Harbormaster, Howie Kreutzberg (arrived late)

Commission Members not in Attendance: Dave Haley, Tucker Patterson, Steve Guard

Others in Attendance: Recording Secretary, Alicia Anthony, SCTV Director, Seth Pheiffer

Chairman Mike Gibbons called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM which was seconded by Rick Murray and voted all in favor (7-0) by roll call vote; UNANIMOUS.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Gibbons (yes)

Vice Chairman Murray (yes)

Brian Kelly (yes)

Dave Friedman (yes)

Dave Sincoski (yes)

Craig Rosenquist (yes)

Harbormaster Mone (yes)

Chairman Gibbons asked for a motion to be made to approve the April 7, 2021 Meeting Agenda Mr. Friedman made a motion which was seconded by Brian Kelly and voted all in favor (7-0) to accept the agenda as submitted by roll call vote; UNANIMOUS.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Gibbons (yes)

Vice Chairman Murray (yes)

Brian Kelly (yes)

Dave Friedman (yes)

Dave Sincoski (yes)

Craig Rosenquist (yes)

Harbormaster Mone (yes)

Chairman Gibbons asked for a motion to be made to approve the March 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Craig Rosenquist made a motion which was seconded by Rick Murray and voted all in favor (7--0) to accept the minutes as written by roll call vote; UNANIMOUS.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Gibbons (yes)

Vice Chairman Murray (yes)

Brian Kelly (yes)

Dave Friedman (yes)

Dave Sincoski (yes)

Craig Rosenquist (yes)

Harbormaster Mone (yes)

Chairman Gibbons started off by reminding the board of The Town Meeting coming up on April 12th. The Waterways Commission has two items on the meeting agenda; one being the budget for The Harbormaster Department and the second is the change to the bylaws.

Harbormaster Report – Stephen Mone

CPM Piling Project Status Update and Additional Pilings

Harbormaster Mone updated the board stating that The Cole Parkway Project is going great. Further saying that it's on budget and on time. There are only three piling left to be installed there. Harbormaster Mone then said that they are now waiting on permitting and approval from The DEP on the additional six pilings at The Maritime Center. Approval from The Army Core is also needed as well as The Conservation Committee's comments.

Harbormaster Mone reported that the 80-foot gangway has been put together and is currently in the parking lot and that the entryway to The Cole Parkway ramp was installed today. He stated that most of the chain and stone has been pulled out and is waiting to be moved to The Pegoty Beach Parking Lot to hold things in place there. Next, Harbormaster Mone explained that they have been launching the fingers and the crane and barge will come out next. He said that from here the workers will work from shore putting in the new deck areas which will be changed from a rectangular shape to a square. Harbormaster Mone added that he feels this is going to be a nice addition to The Harbor as a viewing stand in town.

He moved on to say that over the weekend some osprey had built a nest on top of one of the cranes. The Environmental Police confirmed that there were not any eggs within and removed it with the help of the crane operator. The birds have moved in a few more times since and The Environmental Police will continue to remove the nest, as long as there aren't eggs present, until the birds decide to move elsewhere or the project is complete.

Harbormaster Mone then asked if anyone from the board had any questions. Dave Friedman asked if adding in extra slips at The Marina has been explored as of yet as discussed in the past. Harbormaster Mone responded saying that as the season goes on they will be watching. Also saying that the layout is still the same as it was and that is a

possibility that if fingers were removed in the future at Cole Parkway extra slips or ones for larger boats could be added.

Boat Hard Aground on Glades Rocks

Harbormaster Mone shared pictures of a 25-foot boat that was moored off of Graves Lighthouse in Boston Harbor and was found flipped over and wedged in rock glades in Scituate. Sea Tow and another company were able to pull it out of the rocks and pulled it to The Scituate Boat Ramp to get it out of the water.

River Updates

Mr. Mone reported that The Aids To Navigation for all of Scituate and Marshfield have been deployed. The “Slow No Wake” buoys will be done next. He went on to say that the project is on task. He said that he had met with Harbormaster Dimeo of Marshfield and both towns agreed to put up larger signage, “No Wake” buoys at the entrance as well as “No Wake” signs in The Rivers. Norwell Harbormaster has also agreed to get and deploy this signage further up The River.

David Sincoski then asked Harbormaster Mone if there was any update on the public restrooms being available this season. Harbormaster Mone responded that he has spoken with Town Administrator, Jim Boudreau, and he is waiting to make a final decision based on The Covid restriction guidelines but they will remain closed for now. He went on to say that we are still several weeks away from The Marina opening in which several things could change. Harbormaster Mone assured the board that he would update them as he was. Mr. Sincoski then mentioned the possibility of getting portable toilets ordered or putting plastic barriers up so in the instance, the public restrooms couldn’t be opened, there would be an appropriate option for boaters.

Old Business:

Comprehensive Dredge Permit

It was questioned if this could be used to dredge The Harbor or if that would have to be re-voted on specifically for a new project. The board spoke of many combinations of making it work as they all agreed that work in The Harbor is priority and financially the Comprehensive Dredge Project doesn’t make sense at this time. It was agreed that Harbormaster Mone would reach out to Finance Director, Nancy Holt to get her expertise on whether an RFP should be worked up or if a whole new bid is necessary. The board will discuss Mone’s findings at the next meeting as well as how to proceed.

Small Vessel Management and Access

- **Racking for Paddle Craft**

Dave Friedman updated the board saying that he met with Conservations Commission Liaison, Andrew Gallagher at The Driftway Ramp and he stated that The Conservation Commission agrees to putting a simple rack there. Mr. Friedman and Mr. Kreutzberg also met with Conservation Commission Chairperson, Frank Snow and Natural Resource Officer, Amy Walkey at the Maritime Parking Lot and decided that they would wait to re-assess that space after the boats were all out and maybe use the area where the dumpsters are now. Mr. Friedman also stated that The Conservation Commission is very interested in the idea of adding trailer parking and making other improvements to The Conservation Park. The board discussed getting the project moving.

Mr. Friedman made a motion that the Waterways Commission approve the idea of installing a rack system at Conservation Park for use by paddle craft charging a fee to users decided by a lottery, Mr. Kreutzberg seconded this motion and the board voted all in favor (7-0-1) by roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Rick Murray (yes)

Howie Kreutzberg (yes)

Brian Kelly (yes)

David Sincoski (yes)

Craig Rosenquist (yes)

Dave Friedman (yes)

Stephen Mone (abstained)

Mike Gibbons (yes)

Dave Friedman and David Sincoski will now get on The Conservation Commission's agenda to hear their comments and hopefully get approval on the rack system.

- **Jericho Ramp Parking**

Mr. Friedman started off by saying that this item was originally brought up due to the high volume of non-paying users, i.e. paddle craft, costing officials extra time and money. There is a need for more revenue for The Harbormaster's Office's extra management. Mr. Friedman brought to the board's attention that if a fee to use The Jericho Ramp was put in to effect, the funds could only be used for that ramp which although important to the town does not help where original need is. This will be discussed in the future.

- **Sticker Program**

Mr. Friedman stated that the sticker program needs to be marketed more than it is being done now. Mr. Rosenquist suggested adding a box for the stickers somewhere on the rack drawing to which Mr. Friedman acknowledged the idea.

Fran McMillen then brought up the event that The Business Association along with a few other Associations has annually, Opening of the Harbor, and his plans to give out the stickers with The Coast Guard. This event is held the first weekend in June yearly. The board discussed Fran's invitation for The Waterways Commission to take part and invite officials to thank them for all they have contributed to Scituate over the last few years as well as celebrate the accomplishments with the community. Mr. Kreutzberg and Mr. Murray will work on a formal invite to said officials.

Financial update – Brian Kelly

Mr. Kelly updated the board that he is waiting until the current cycle is complete to have visibility of this year's revenues and will take a thorough exam on the numbers at that time. Mr. Kelly also shared a breakdown that was asked for prior of where most business was. For the town's slips, 66% are in utilized in The Harbor and 34% in the combined rivers. For the town's moorings, 85% are in The Harbor while 15% are outside of The Harbor (being mostly in The South River).

New Business:

Dredge of South River

- **Discussion with Marshfield**

Mr. Gibbons went over the conversation the board had with Marshfield Harbormaster Dimeo at last month's meeting briefly. Reminding the board that Harbormaster Dimeo proposed Scituate putting in \$250,000, Marshfield putting in \$250,000 and getting the remainder through the grant. Mr. Gibbons informed the board that Harbormaster Dimeo is asking for Scituate's decision on this so Marshfield knows which way to move, as it was approved on their end. The majority of the board feels that The Harbor is Scituate's top priority at this time and there are not enough funds for this large project being it is not as much of a concern at this time. It was brought up to look at this again in a few years.

It was unified and the commission agreed to adopt the following consensus;

At this point in time The Waterways Commission will not proceed further with The South River dredging. The Waterways Commission will remain in communication with The Town of Marshfield about the subject and will revisit at a later date as appropriate.

It was also agreed on that the board use this consensus to respond to Town Administrator, Jim Boudreaus's request for the commission's thoughts.

Chairman Gibbons will relay the board's decision to Marshfield's Harbormaster Dimeo.

Participant Q&A:

None

Chairman Gibbons asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. Rick Murray made the motion, which was seconded by Dave Friedman and voted all in favor (8-0) by roll call vote; UNANIMOUS.

Roll Call Vote:

Rick Murray (yes)

Howie Kreutzberg (yes)

Brian Kelly (yes)

David Sincoski (yes)

Craig Rosenquist (yes)

Dave Friedman (yes)

Stephen Mone (yes)

Mike Gibbons (yes)