



TOWN OF SCITUATE

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MEETING MINUTES Waterways Commission Meeting Wednesday, May 5, 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, David Friedman, Brian Kelly, Craig Rosenquist, David Sincoski, Scituate Harbormaster; Stephen Mone, Howie Kreutzberg

Commission Members not in Attendance: Vice Chairperson; Rick Murray, Dave Haley, Tucker Patterson, Steve Guard

Others in Attendance: Recording Secretary, Alicia Anthony, SCTV Director, Seth Pheiffer, Selectboard Liaison; Maura Curran, Conservatives Commission Liaison; Andrew Gallagher

Chairman Mike Gibbons called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM which was seconded by Brian Kelly and voted all in favor (7-0) by roll call vote; UNANIMOUS.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Gibbons (yes)

Brian Kelly (yes)

Dave Friedman (yes)

Dave Sincoski (yes)

Craig Rosenquist (yes)

Harbormaster Mone (yes)

Howie Kreutzberg (yes)

Chairman Gibbons asked for a motion to be made to approve the May 5, 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)

Brian Kelly (yes)

Dave Friedman (yes)

Dave Sincoski (yes)
Craig Rosenquist (yes)
Harbormaster Mone (yes)
Howie Kreutzberg (yes)

Chairman Gibbons asked for a motion to be made to approve the April 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes as amended. Dave Friedman made a motion which was seconded by Brian Kelly 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)

Harbormaster Report – Stephen Mone

A. CPM Piling Project Status Update

Harbormaster Mone started off by saying that they are on schedule and on budget. He informed the board that all of the piles are in at The Cole Parkway Marina with three pile caps left to put on. At the Maritime Center they will put the piles caps on during high tide. Weather permitting, these caps should be on by the end of the week as well as all electrical work. Harbormaster Mone then reported that the GFCI System has been installed and once energized they will test each device. He also stated that the water lines are all hooked up and working. C. White will be preasurize the system this week to assure there are no leaks. Next, Harbormaster Mone shared with the board that they ran in to an issue with the sewer line but have since come up with a resolution that will be completed prior to The Marina opening for the season. He also stated that the contractor is working on the observation deck. It is mostly put together in the parking lot. The piles are in, tomorrow they will set the joists and will then set the deck. Harbormaster Mone said that he went over a minor punch list with the contractor today. Chairperson Gibbons asked Harbormaster Mone if the deck would be complete for opening day. Harbormaster Mone said that all except the viewing stand is planned to be complete as they're waiting on the mesh fencing for that. That area will not be accessible until the fencing job is complete. Chairperson Gibbons then asked when the barriers in the parking lot were going to be removed. Harbormaster Mone responded saying that the fencing is scheduled to start coming down on Friday and he is working with DPW on moving the jersey barriers.

Harbormaster Mone then gave an update on the piling project at The Maritime Center. He informed the board that he submitted the six additional piles to DEP and received the permit. He then reached out to The Army Corp to notify them of the plan to add piles and was told that they didn't have a permit on file for pilings, just of chain and stone. Harbormaster Mone now knows that the original permits pulled to hold The Marina in place were for chain and stone and at some point, it was opted to switch to mooring tiles. During that switch the DEP was notified and issued a permit for the

work, however, The Army Corp was not. Therefore, their records still showed The Marina having chain and stone. Harbormaster Mone is currently working with The Army Corp to correct that permit as well as Fishing and Wildlife. The permits should be issued in the next six weeks but the process of getting things in place for this project will have to start from the beginning.

B. River Updates

Harbormaster Mone started off by confirming that the Nav Aids were in. Then saying that the “Slow, No Wake” buoys are being worked on. He reported that The North/South River Association has purchased “No Wake” buoys to be placed at the mouth of the river. There are other buoys planned to be put in both The North and South Rivers.

- **River Patrols**

Chairperson Gibbons stated that he had received questions about the river patrol between Scituate and Marshfield as last season the need really ramped up and patrol increases were needed significantly. It was asked if this season the patrolling could start earlier to get on top of it from the start. Harbormaster Mone stated that his plan is to start immediately in that area. He went on to say that both the Marshfield and Scituate Police Departments plan to work together as they did last year moving throughout the River until the end of the season. Further explaining that the Coast Guard has not arrived yet but he plans to discuss this need with them as well. Marshfield Resident; Brad White asked Harbormaster Mone what the penalty system was for boaters who were spoken to in these areas. Harbormaster Mone answered Mr. White stating that the state mandated penalties were a verbal warning at first, then a written warning and lastly a \$50 fine.

C. Start of 2021 Season – Restrooms

Harbormaster Mone informed the board that the Marina restrooms and showers were approved to open as of May 15th, but loitering wouldn’t be tolerated.

Harbormaster Mone also informed the board that the new boat is ready for the season and is scheduled to go in the water within the next couple of days.

Dave Friedman then asked Harbormaster Mone how the payments for slips and moorings for current holders coming in. Harbormaster Mone responded that there are currently ten moorings outstanding. The mooring holders that don’t pay for the upcoming season by May 18th will lose their mooring, \$100 late fee.

D. Jericho Ramp Porta Potty and Conservation Park Porta Potty

At the last meeting, the board created an action item of who held ownership of these. Chairperson Gibbons was since informed that the DPW has been putting in the porta potty at Conservation Park (Driftway Ramp) as well as paying for it. However, there weren’t any records found of the town paying for the porta potty at the Jericho Ramp that was removed last summer. Chairperson Gibbons suggested that the board ask the DPW to put one at the Jericho Ramp as they have been overseeing the one at the Driftway Ramp. Board of Selectmen Liaison; Maura Curran took on the responsibility of this task. The board will discuss further at the next meeting.

Old Business:

A. Harbor Dredge Permitting

Harbormaster Mone agreed at the last meeting to reach out to Finance Director; Nancy Holt to see if the money that was allocated for The Comprehensive Dredge Project would be able to be used for the comprehensive dredge permitting of The Harbor as that is the priority at this time. Ms. Holt had told Harbormaster Mone that this would be permissible to do and that he would need to go to RFP for the dredge permits for The Harbor. Harbormaster Mone stated that once he finishes wrapping up the piling project and opening the marinas, his plan is to get out 2 versions of RFP's. One will be for the inner harbor and the second for both the inner and outer harbors. Harbormaster Mone then said that parts of condition orders for the Maritime Center are still in place as he had extended them. He stated that he could provide the old permits for these areas to the consultants who will do the future work.

B. Small Vessel Management and Access

- **Racking for Paddlecraft**

Dave Friedman started off by saying that as he has had ongoing conversation with Chairperson of The Conservation Commission; Frank Snow, they have come to the point that he would like to see a design. Mr. Snow also sent pictures of his ideas for design to Mr. Friedman and Mr. Friedman informed him that The Waterways Commission doesn't have a preference on style. Mr. Snow suggested an A frame type of structure made from wood to give the flexibility to move them as needed. Mr. Friedman expressed that he doesn't know where to turn for the building of the racks as the Vocational Technical School isn't available until mid-fall. Board of Selectmen Liaison; Maura Curran suggested reaching out to The Eagle Scouts once more and offered to get Mr. Friedman troop #7's contact information and Ms. Curran will pass along to the troop the pictures given sent by Mr. Snow for reference. As the Harbormaster's funds are low until the next season, paying for just the material and using The Eagle Scouts to build the structures, the amount needed for each would be under \$1,000. Harbormaster Mone suggested reaching out to Town Administrator; Jim Boudreau to ask if there are funds in his budget to assist in this project. Selectboard Liaison; Maura Curran began composing an email to Mr. Boudreau immediately.

- **Meeting with Conservation Commission**

Chairperson of The Conservation Commission, Frank Snow informed Mr. Friedman that since the Commission is on board with this project, there is not a need to meet with them. Again, The Conservation Commission is only looking for a design drawn up prior to anything being built.

- **Jericho Ramp Parking**

Mr. Friedman started off by saying that any revenue from a state-run ramp would need to be used for the maintenance of that ramp, which he doesn't feel requires much maintenance. Therefore, this would not increase revenue for The Waterways. Mr. David Sincoski spoke up stating that he heard that the 3-A Marine has sold out of boats for the second year in a row. He also mentioned that Driftway Auto Sales, is no longer selling cars and have replaced them with boats. Mr. Sincoski went on to say that the growth is going to keep on coming. With this all said, Mr. Sincoski expressed that he feels this is a project that he thinks should be done as a way to bring revenue in, as the town is growing. Mr. Friedman expressed that he agrees

but there are a lot of restrictions as to what can be done with this revenue being that it can only be used on that specific ramp. Mr. Sincoski responded to this comment saying that there are several repairs that could be made to the Jericho Ramp. Mr. Friedman stated that he would rather see revenue come in that could be used to help fund The Harbormaster's Office as their time managing the additional boaters has increased. Scituate Resident; David Dauphinee of 356 Clapp Road, informed the board that he has put in an email to Fishing and Boating Access to get answers on exactly what is allowed to be done. He does know from his research though that any money derived from parking and/or launching can be used on the facility unrestricted to just the ramp itself. Mr. Dauphinee also mentioned that when he has been in conversation with other residents of Scituate, he often hears that the town uses CPC money for projects but doesn't have the money to maintain any of them. Going on to say that this project would be a \$20,000 - \$40,000 per year revenue that would help people using it to pay in to the system. Mr. Friedman then stated that he is all for this use, its just a new objective than was originally proposed. Many of the board members agreed that this is a great location being used as an access point that is going unregulated. Selectboard Liaison; Maura Curran suggested coupling this improvement with the Board of Selectpeople's ideas of improving and beautifying Pier 44. She stated that this may be an opportunity for the two boards to meet with the state and combine the two projects in to one effort to beautify the area. It was agreed by all that this area should be cleaned up.

Mr. Dauphinee went on to read from the Fishing and Boating Access page saying; "Fishing and Boating Access Manages the construction, repair and operation of state boat ramps, canoe and car top launch sites, parking areas and approach roads. It oversees facility design and construction which is usually done by a private contractor. FBA funds are also used to construct fish piers and purchase shoreline areas.". Mr. Dauphinee then noted that this says nothing about maintenance which is where Scituate is struggling with projects across the town. The discussion was concluded and left with action items to report on at the next meeting. Mr. Dauphinee will keep working on getting answers as well as inviting The Fishing and Boating Access Commission to a future Waterways meeting for them to speak to the board as a whole. Additional board members will reach out to other contacts town departments regarding locating grants.

- **Sticker Program**

As the main focus prior to the idea of introducing the racking system was to increase revenue, and this system is not going to provide much, Mr. Friedman suggested marketing the sticker program even more so. This is in effort to provide safe measures for the kayakers and paddle boaters, as well as help out the Harbormaster and staff, Coast Guard, and Scituate Police. He went on to say that he doesn't have ideas of his own on how to market them but really would like to see it done.

C. Financial Update – Brian Kelly

Mr. Kelly reported to the board that he is waiting on the mooring numbers to come in, which are due May 15th. He reminded the board that the mooring fee revenue has swung approximately \$20,000 every other year since 2014, and nobody has been able to figure out why this continues to happen. Saying that odd years have been up and even years have been down. Last year the department finished at \$94,000+, and this

year is budgeted for \$95,000 as a conservative number, with hopes of it being higher. As of now, Eunice is showing \$90,300, while Ellen Talbot of The Harbormaster Office is showing \$94,683 as she has outstanding invoices for \$3,300 and a few hundred dollars not yet entered in to the system. Mr. Kelly stated that at this point the department seems to be sitting on top of the budget number of \$95,000 but not on the \$114,000/\$115,000 that has historically happening in 1917 and Mr. Kelly will continue looking in to this after the books have close on the 15th and the number have a chance to filter in through Eunice.

D. Town Meeting Financial Budget Approved and By Laws Changes Approved

Mr. Gibbons shared with the board that the Financial Budget as well as the By Laws Changes were approved at the Town Meeting.

Chairperson Gibbons also informed the board that the letter to Town Administrator, Jim Boudreau was sent with the consensus from the last Waterways Meeting regarding the dredging of the South River.

****Off Agenda Topic - Brian Kelly asked Board of Selectmen Liaison; Maura Curran if she was aware if the letter of consensus that the board had sent to Town Administrator; Jim Boudreau noting the board's decision not to move forward with the dredging of the South River. Ms. Curran confirmed that she indeed saw the email and is in the loop.**

New Business:

A. Mass Maritime Trades – Stay Local Program

Howie Kreutzberg spoke to the board about a new program he read about through The Mass Marine Trades Association, called “Stay Local”. The program is to encourage boaters to visit other marinas within the Commonwealth in effort to get people moving about. The program is a couple hundred dollars to enroll and it allows the town to discount slip fees for transient boaters also participating in the program, who will have a membership card to present upon arrival. The discounts fluctuate from 10 – 20% depending on how many boats visit the town together. The board agreed that this sounds like a great program to drive more transient boaters to Scituate to enjoy all the town has to offer, making this a program that will benefit the town overall. The five available transient slips would be used as well as any slip holder's sites that are available due to their absence. It was also said that Scituate was involved in the program in the past but didn't use it to its full potential. As the board expressed interest in participating this season, Harbormaster Mone suggested that it be voted on.

Howie Kreutzberg made a motion for The Waterways Commission to enter into The Mass Marine Trades Association's “Stay Local” program for this upcoming season. The motion was seconded by Brian Kelly and voted majority in favor (6-1-0) by roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Brian Kelly (yes)

Howie Kreutzberg (yes)

David Sincoski (yes)

Dave Friedman (yes)

Craig Rosenquist (yes)

Harbormaster Stephen Mone (abstained)

Chairperson Mike Gibbons (yes)

B. Opening of The Harbor – First Friday Event, 6/4

Chairperson Gibbons recapped from the last meeting the conversation the board had regarding sending invites to the state authorities who helped Scituate in the many waterfront projects to thank them for their support. It was decided that the board would hold off on the invites until the fall when COVID restrictions have been relaxed and all of the projects are at their completion to fully show off all that has been done due to the support of these attendees.

C. In Person WWC Meeting June?

Chairperson Gibbons asked the board if they would prefer meeting in person again, if allowable, rather than continue meetings via Zoom. The majority of the board stated that they look forward to meeting in person once again. The state guidelines still enforce social distancing at such events and the public's attendance needs to be allowed in some way. The risk with scheduling all in person meetings, is the inability to manage the public attendance numbers to keep socially distant upon requirements. Scituate Community Television Director; Seth Pheiffer informed the board that at this time he is working on a method to have the public view live online an in-person board meeting, but does not have a solution as of yet.

Scituate Resident, Paul Manning of 64 Moreland Road spoke up saying that the benefit of Zoom is that most can attend easily. He went on to say that the number of individuals getting vaccinated is rising, making the opportunity to meet in person soon more likely. Mr. Manning also stated that he feels unless both Zoom and in-person attendance is offered, the commission will probably lose a few people who have been regularly attending Waterways meetings.

Chairperson Gibbons stated that he would continue to look in to possibilities for future meetings.

Participant Q&A:

None to discuss.

Chairperson Gibbons asked for a motion to be made to adjourn the meeting. Dave Friedman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m., which was seconded by Brian Kelly and voted all in favor (7-0) by roll call vote; UNANIMOUS.

Roll Call Vote:

Brian Kelly (yes)

Howie Kreutzberg (yes)

David Sincoski (yes)

Dave Friedman (yes)

Craig Rosenquist (yes)

Harbormaster Stephen Mone (yes)

Chairperson Mike Gibbons (yes)