

**TOWN OF SCITUATE, MASSACHUSETTS  
WATERWAYS COMMISSION**



**MEETING MINUTES  
Waterways Commission  
Wednesday, July 7, 2021  
7:00 pm  
Scituate Maritime Center  
119 Edward Foster Road  
Scituate, MA 02066**

**Commission Members Present:** Chairperson; Mike Gibbons, Scituate Harbormaster; Stephen Mone, Brian Kelly, David Friedman, Vice Chairperson; Rick Murray, Craig Rosenquist, David Sincoski

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

**Also in Attendance:** Recording Secretary; Alicia Anthony, Selectboard Liaison; Maura Curran, Conservatives Commission Liaison; Andrew Gallagher, Officer Brendan McAuley, Marshfield Harbormaster; Mike Dimeo and Marshfield Waterways Commission Members, Douglas Cameron from The Office of Fishing and Boating Access

**Chairperson Gibbons called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.**

**Chairperson Gibbons welcomed the Marshfield Waterways Commission to the meeting.**

**Chairperson Gibbons asked for a motion to be made to approve the July 7, 2021 Meeting Agenda. Dave Friedman made a motion which was seconded by Brian Kelly; passed unanimously 8-0.**

**Chairperson Gibbons asked for a motion to be made to approve the June 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes with the edits made by Brian Kelly. Dave Friedman made a motion which was seconded by Brian Kelly**

## **Harbormaster Report – Stephen Mone**

### **A. River Updates**

Harbormaster Mone said that his staff have been up and down The Rivers, mostly every day, weather permitting and all is going along well with the help of The Scituate Police Department and Marshfield's staff.

### **B. Transient Moorings Update**

Harbormaster Mone informed the board that the transient moorings have been deployed and the permits have been received from the Army Corp.

Harbormaster Mone provided a few other updates, saying that things are moving along in The Harbor. He said that the viewing stand is complete and the blocks were removed. There is a little bit of fencing that is still needed around the gangway. The funding sign will be kept up until after the grand opening.

As there are no current open slips, Mr. Sincoski asked Harbormaster Mone if people were communicating when their slips would be open. Harbormaster Mone responded that this is happening but he'd like to see it being done more.

Mr. Sincoski mentioned the trash that he has noticed overflowing at night but noted that its always cleaned up by morning. Harbormaster Mone responded to this saying that trash pick up is at 7 a.m. Mr. Sincoski went on to say that The Cole Parkway parking area was full making it a challenge to park, as there were several commercial trucks taking up more than one space. Ms. Curran shared that she is putting in for the Pier Forty-Four project to include extra parking and suggested this also be done for the Cole Parkway project for the town to address.

Next, Chairperson Gibbons and Dave Friedman shared their experience from the Shellfish Meeting they attended. DMF talked about closing The Rivers for shellfishing. The possibility of keeping them open until the testing has been done was discussed. The standards from The FDA are for both commercial and recreational shellfishing and with Massachusetts being the only state that has recreational shellfishing, the standard is being kept just the same as across the rest of the country. It was concluded that things will be kept closed until the testing is complete so that no one gets sick although there are still some fighting this decision.

## **Old Business**

### **A. Small Vessel Management and Access**

#### **• Racking for Paddle Craft**

It was said that direction was sought from The Selectboard, which Ms. Curran confirmed that the letter went in and will be discussed in the coming weeks as Town Administrator, Jim Boudreau was on vacation.

#### **• Jericho Ramp Area Improvements – Dave Dauphinee and Doug Cameron, Office of Fishing and Boating Access**

Scituate Resident, Dave Dauphinee, of 356 Clapp Road, invited Doug Cameron from the office of Fishing and Boating Access to the meeting to discuss what is permissible and what is not.

Mr. Cameron first mentioned that in 2008 things were reconstructed and part of the project for the sea wall improvements is to address the rise and resiliency issues.

It was said that the lighting replacement is something included in the area improvements. The report from the consulting firm is expected back by the end of the summer to have a preliminary plan and The Waterways Commission will have a chance to give input at that time. From there the details will be worked out before filing with The Conservation Commission to begin the process. Mr. Cameron then informed the board that any of the facilities The Fishing and Boating Access constructs are only to be used for the purpose intended (i.e. Boating and Fishing pays for the boating and fishing part of any facility that has additional features such as walking trails, extra activities, and parking.) Although parking for fishing and boating would be something covered. Mr. Cameron suggested that the commission be careful on what they spend money and to look at parking spaces to go along with the money that would be put in for any new building. The agreement with Fishing and Boating Access allows municipality to collect a fee but anything earned has to be used at that specific facility (i.e. porta potties, Police Department coverage, etc.). He also said that seasonal permits are allowed. Mr. Sincoski then brought up the Pier Forty-Four project and asked how the projects could be combined together. Mr. Cameron responding saying if this would be joining public property. Mr. Sincoski then informed Mr. Cameron that there is lots of parking and if the building were down there'd be even more parking and it's almost adjacent to the ramp area. Mr. Cameron said they'd be very interested in looking at this. Next, Ms. Curran asked what the funding schedule is like as the report is anticipated to come back in September to which Mr. Cameron responded that this is more than two years out and costs do go up as time goes by. Parking Fees were then discussed and Mr. Cameron said that submitting parking fees collected to Fishing and Boating Access is required although day to day facility care is not. Chairperson Gibbons asked about the parking fee process to which Mr. Cameron said that using only pay by machine is what is trending, although larger places have attendants at lots to take cash. Mr. Cameron also mentioned that the current average parking fee is \$8-10. When Chairperson Gibbons asked what other towns have done, Mr. Cameron informed him that bathrooms were rare as these are only seasonal facilities and the upkeep is expensive as well as the initial construction costs. Parking lots, ramps, and float repairs are most often seen. Mr. Cameron mentioned that other towns have also included kayak storage. Off-site parking up to a quarter of a mile from the facility is allowed, and Fishing and Boating would cover costs for fishing and boating portion of the lot which includes paving, designing, putting in, and repairing the lots if boating access was included at the site. Chairperson Gibbons then stated that this ties in nicely to the Waterways' kayak project and mentioned maybe pushing to get involved at The Driftway Park. Mr. Rosenquist mentioned that the area to the right of the wooded side could be used for parking. Mr. Cameron had also mentioned during the discussion that materials can be reimbursed if reasonable cost savings to The Commonwealth could be shown, such as using Scituate's DPW to do labor.

## **B. Financial Update – Brian Kelly**

Mr. Kelly stated that year end just occurred so he didn't have any new numbers. He said that Finance Director, Nancy Holt will have these at the end of August. Mr. Kelly mentioned that the Revenue and Expenses came in just about as estimated and that the WW Fund was in good shape. Also mentioning that over the next few years debt service increases (FY 2022 & 2023), slight decreases in 2024 and then substantially decreases in 2025. There should be a revenue uptick in FY'22 from mooring and slip fees slight increase.

## **C. Porta potty at Boat Ramps**

It was reported that Ms. Curran was able to get porta potties at The Jericho Ramp. The Commission thanked her.

## **New Business**

### **Joint Meeting with Marshfield Waterways Commission**

As questions have been coming up, Harbormaster Dimeo agreed to have the two boards meet together for the first time in a couple of years. The two groups introduced themselves.

- **Discussion on Comprehensive Dredge Permitting for Rivers**

Selectperson Gibbons started off by saying that the comprehensive dredge permits' numbers back came back more than anticipated. He informed the Marshfield board that Scituate has looked at this again after being told that funding was available through the state. Harbormaster Dimeo then spoke, saying that the two boards met back in March to discuss the project. Continuing to say that Marshfield already has the permits to finish the project and wants to complete what was started. Harbormaster Mone responded saying that he is looking to put one together for Scituate Harbor, which would become a ten-year project and include the river. He went on to say that the quotes came in so much higher than expected as was stated earlier. Harbormaster Dimeo asked why Scituate would sit on permits they already have if The Commonwealth is giving the money. He also added that he is happy to talk about areas in the North River that may need dredging. Chairperson Gibbons mentioned the area he knows of and said if there is one, there is probably more. Mr. Sincoski mentioned another area at Herring River. A member of The Marshfield Waterways Commission spoke up saying that Marshfield is on board, he thinks they can get the state on board, but doesn't think that Scituate is on board. Chairperson Gibbons responded to say that Scituate is on board but wants to focus on our own current priorities. He went on to say that the board will re look at this as it would be a shame to lose these permits that have two years left on them. Dave Friedman stated that the Harbor Project is a way out, why not do the Rivers now as things are already in place. Mr. Kelly responded saying that there are other Capital Projects to take in to account such as money even if a Seaport Grant was received. He went on to say that he would propose that Scituate consider The South River and review what the "must haves" are. He will run numbers and get back to the board at the next meeting. Mr. Kelly apologized to The Marshfield Board saying that Scituate just added to other areas of debt as well as increased fees to cover any short-term shortfalls. Chairperson Gibbons said that some projects will add to the long-

term debt service, and that overall Debt will decline significantly in FY25/26. Mr. Kelly agreed. Harbormaster Dimeo stated that he wants a \$1million cap but the longer its waited to do the project, the more it will increase. He went on to say that the money helps pay for the permits too, which is a pretty good deal to have each town pay 25%. Harbormaster Dimeo went on to say that since the last time the area was dredged was in 2006, not all pieces will be in need now. Harbormaster Dimeo stated that he thinks applying for next year to possibly do off season in the winter of 2022/2023. Going on to say that Marshfield has the \$250,000 in their account and wants to use it on the South River. Mr. Rosenquist asked Harbormaster Dimeo if Marshfield would still do something if Scituate ends up being out. Harbormaster Dimeo responded saying that they would clean up and go as far as they could. Mr. Friedman asked if the town could pay to which most agreed that they don't think this is a possibility. Chairperson Gibbons stated that he doesn't think it's fair for Marshfield to spend the money while Scituate doesn't, as dredging the half river can't be done. Harbormaster Dimeo spoke up saying that he understands this is a lot of money but feels it's such a great opportunity. He went on to say that the two towns need to stay in communication, as the state is looking for projects currently. Mr. Kelly said he will go over Scituate's capital plan, budget, and finances and see if it's a possibility. Harbormaster Dimeo responded that if the permits are in hand, the towns can go to bid right away and get contractors scheduled before they're busy, and bring it all to Town Meeting. Chairperson Gibbons said that if Scituate can get to a yes, the aim will be for fall time.

- **Open discussion between groups**

Harbormaster Dimeo said that he thinks the donated signs and the increased patrols are definitely making a difference. The two boards discussed working together to get more patrol coverage during the weekends. It was determined that there are so many people out there that it's just not feasible to increase coverage unless it became a paid detail job. This wouldn't be ideal as it would be something the town would have to pay for.

The two towns agreed to meet together twice a year going forward.

## **Participant Q&A**

Scituate Resident, Dave Lawrence of 357 First Parish Road, brought his concern of the safety of his slip to the board. He said that this is his fifth year on the slip, and 20 years of fishing on it. The piling made it so he can't get close to the rail of his boat from the dock, which is a safety issue, especially when he has his large handicapped passenger along. Mr. Lawrence had a plan of a simple fix he would do himself, as a general contractor, and would ask for the cost of materials to be covered which he estimated to be under \$2,000. He shared photos of his slip with the board. The resident was informed that his plan wouldn't be legal unless a permit from the state was issued which would take a lot of time and money. Harbormaster Mone said that he had offered Mr. Lawrence a different location but Mr. Lawrence did not want to leave his current slip. Harbormaster Mone suggested Mr. Lawrence call in to his office for handicap accommodations in other areas when needed. He also said that the Marina is going through changes soon so these issues will change. Then asking Mr. Lawrence if he would like to move or work with the town until these changes happened if he was guaranteed to get his slip back

when all is complete. The board agreed that if Mr. Lawrence did decide to move, the slip couldn't be rented with this problem. It was agreed that this would be looked at soon and a plan would be made with Mr. Lawrence.

**It was discussed that the board would not meet in August and the next meeting would be held as scheduled on September 1, 2021**

**Chairperson Gibbons asked for a motion to be made to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. Mr. Friedman made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Kelly; passed unanimously 8-0.**