

**TOWN OF SCITUATE, MASSACHUSETTS
WATERWAYS COMMISSION**



**MEETING MINUTES
Waterways Commission
Wednesday, Sept 1, 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, Dave Haley, and Steve Guard

Commission Members not in Attendance: Tucker Patterson, Howie Kreutzberg

Also in Attendance: Officer Brendan McAuley, SPD and Alternates Dave Haley and Steve Guard

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

Chairperson Gibbons asked for a motion to be made to approve the Sept 1, 2021 Meeting Agenda. Dave Friedman made a motion which was seconded by Brian Kelly; passed unanimously 7-0.

Chairperson Gibbons asked for a motion to be made to approve the July 7th meeting minutes, or to wait until we had final version of edited minutes. The decision was made to wait until the October meeting to review and approve.

Harbormaster Report – Stephen Mone

A. River Updates

Harbormaster Mone stated that river traffic has been up again this year. He said that along with Marshfield Harbormaster, and Scituate PD, patrolling has been successful in slowing it down. Several commission members agreed and David Sincoski stated that he feels the presence of SPD, and SHM has been better this summer in his opinion.

B. Rescues and Storms

Harbormaster Mone reviewed several rescues made since the last meeting. Stating that There have been several rescues during recent storms; including using the inflatable to rescue 2 swimmers being pulled out to sea off Humarock. In heavy seas, the boat secured the swimmers and was able to beach the boat to land them.

He also talked about information provided by Constant Contact to mariners regarding the storms that had come through during July/August.

Mr. Gibbons commended SHM, SPD, SCG and the other involved agencies on some of the rescues that took place in tough weather conditions.

C. CPM Marina Grant

Harbormaster Mone stated that all of the state's portion of the CPM grant money has been spent. There is a small amount of Scituate's share of money remaining and that is being spent on repairing several floats and fingers. He is also still waiting for Army Corps of engineers' approval for additional pilings at the Marine Park. There are 6 additional piles in stock waiting to be installed. When approved, The Marina would gain three 40+ slips. Harbormaster Mone stated that another grant has been applied for to fund new docks for Cole Parkway Marina to include 2 sailing floats. The total project is estimated at \$1 – \$1.2 MM. There are grant applications out now that should have results by the end of the year. If Scituate is denied, we'll be able to re-apply in the spring. One of the grants being applied for, from Clean Vessel Act, is for (75%/25%) for an additional pump out station at Jericho ramp. Steven Guard (Water Ways Alternate) asked if the existing pump out boat would remain in service, Harbormaster Mone replied in the affirmative.

D. Fall Slip Deposits

Invoices were mailed out for the 2022 season and some changes were made to the insurance requirements for boat owners on the Town Marinas.

- **Changes to Marina Contract Language**

Changes to the marina language went out last and this week with requests for deposits for the 2022 season.

- **New Insurance Requirements for Town Marinas**

Liability insurance was raised to \$1,000,000 per boat including dinghy's on town docks. Town of Scituate must be listed as additionally insured on Insurance policy

- **Outside Contractors/Work at Town Marinas**

It was said that all outside contractors performing work on boats at the Town Marinas will need \$1,000,000 liability insurance that must be submitted as well as checking in with The Harbormaster's Office before performing any work.

E. Wi-Fi for Harbor

Harbormaster Mone advised the Commission that there was a request made to him by the Towns IT Department to fund fixes and/or replacements of the existing Harbor Wi-Fi overlay. A discussion took place regarding the current status of WIFI in The Harbor saying that it's a patched together system that is not working well.

Nobody seems to know who paid for it originally, but it is believed that the Town paid for the infrastructure. The WWC believes that the Wi-Fi service supports more

landside users than boaters. The commission is going to look into who originally paid for this system and report back at the next meeting.

Old Business:

A. Small Vessel Management and Access

- **Racking for Paddle Craft**

No discussion on this topic as the Commission is awaiting direction from the Selectboard on potential ownership of the program.

- **Jericho Ramp Area Improvements**

It was discussed that Notice of Intent was filed by Dave Cameron for maintenance improvements to Jericho Boat Ramp. After that, there will be a public comment period, where other suggestions can be made.

B. Financial Update – Brian Kelly

- **Number of Vessels Using Waterways**

Brian Kelly led a detailed discussion, and distributed UNOFFICIAL docs showing WW financials. Discussion took place with specific attention to capital projects and the ability to afford the item on the next discussion about completing the South River dredging. In summary, we have a few very tight years with debt obligations dropping significantly after FY'24. The CPM Dock replacement project should be considered a priority, and if no Seaport Grant is received, we will need to closely manage Capital/Debt Service until FY'24-25. Brian was commended by some of the Board members for his hard work in putting together such detail and explaining it to the Commission.

New Business:

A. Dredge Discussion for South River

Chairperson Gibbons gave an overview of the South River Dredge request from Marshfield and stated the approximate cost in total was around \$1,000,000 of which, \$500,000 would be requested from the state in the form of a joint Grant application by Marshfield and Scituate working together to complete the balance of the South River Dredge project started years ago. The balance of the funding \$250,000 by Marshfield and \$250,000 by Scituate Waterways Enterprise fund. There was a lot of discussion on what the priorities are in Scituate from a dredge standpoint and both the Harbor and South River were identified as needed

A motion was made by Rick Murray with 1 contingency- “ The Town of Scituate contribute up to \$250K (not to exceed), and partner with Marshfield to complete the South River dredging, contingent on securing a Commonwealth grant of 50%. This motion was seconded by Dave Friedman and the vote passed (6-1).

Mike Gibbons - Yes

Stephen Mone- Yes

Dave Sincoski- NO

Craig Rosenquist- Yes

Rick Murray- Yes

Brian Kelly- Yes

Dave Friedman- Yes

B. Consolidation of Coast Guard Stations- Scituate

Discussion took place regarding the effort to reverse this decision. The reasoning the Coast Guard is planning this closure is not understood. They pay only \$2,500/year for the building, and receive a free slip. Obviously, this is not a financial decision. It was agreed that a letter would be drafted from the commission to send to the Coast Guard expressing our deepest concerns for boater safety.

C. Invitation to State Officials for Recognition of Projects

Invitations being sent to all local and selected state officials (including Governor and Lt. Governor to recognize the Commonwealth's contribution to our waterways projects. Hopefully a meeting will take place in late September.

D. Next Meeting – Officer Vote

Chairperson Gibbons mentioned that at the next meeting, we're likely to have some new members to Waterways, and we will need to vote in a Chairperson and Vice Chair.

Participant Q&A:

There was none.

Chairperson Gibbons asked for a motion to be made to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. Mr. Friedman made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Kelly; passed unanimously 8-0.