

**TOWN OF SCITUATE, MASSACHUSETTS
WATERWAYS COMMISSION**



**MEETING MINUTES
Waterways Commission
Wednesday, January 3, 2024
6 PM
Scituate Select Board Hearing Room/Zoom/Hybrid
600 Chief Justice Cushing Highway**

Commission Members Present: Chair; Dave Dinneen, Scituate Harbormaster; Stephen Mone, Howie Kreuzberg, Rick Murray, Dave Sincoski, Brian Cronin, Mike Gibbons, Brian Kelly, Associate Member; T.J. Malvesti, Associate Member; Kevin Norton

Also in Attendance: Scituate Police Officer Brendan McAuley, Select Board Liaison Susan Harrison, Leslie Fields from the Woods Hole Group

Members Not in Attendance: Dave Haley, Associate Member; Steven Guard

Chair Dinneen called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Chair Dinneen read the Statement of commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Chair Dinneen asked for a motion to be made to accept the meeting agenda, which was made by Howie Kreutzberg, seconded by Mike Gibbons, and voted unanimously in favor (7-0).

Roll Call Vote:

Brian Cronin (yes)

Dave Sincoski (yes)

Rick Murray (yes)

Howie Kreutzberg (yes)

Harbormaster Mone (yes)

Chair Dinneen (yes)

Brian Kelly (yes)

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Chairman's Report

a. Amendment to Mooring Rules & Regulations and Application

Chair Dinneen shared that the Scituate Waterways Commission wouldn't be commenting on the amendment to mooring rules, regulations, and application that was approved by the Scituate

Select Board on Tuesday, December 19, 2023. Any questions or correspondence should be directed to the Select Board Office.

Harbormaster Report

a. January 2024 Updates – Stephen Mone

Harbormaster Mone shared that he was asked by the Town of Cohasset to start taking applications and administering moorings in Cohasset Harbor. He reported that this is going really well.

b. Harbor Dredging Project Update - Woods Hole Group

Harbormaster Mone stated that the Woods Hole Group has been down at the Harbor. There has also been a company conducting a survey of the Cole Parkway Parking Lot.

Next, Harbormaster Mone introduced the commission to Leslie Fields from the Woods Hole Group, who was present via Zoom. Ms. Fields shared that the Woods Hole Group was hired by the Town of Scituate almost a year ago to begin the comprehensive dredging and disposal permitting for sites in Scituate Harbor. She listed the group's three basic tasks within the contract; the research, which has been completed, the current task of documenting existing conditions through sampling, and the permitting will begin when all of the tests are complete. Ms. Fields also shared images of the dredging areas. She informed the commission that to dispose in the Massachusetts Bay, which is closest, tier two testing will be needed. By disposing in the Cape Cod Bay, time and a small amount of money will be saved. Results are expected back January 22nd. Ms. Fields predicts a year after submitting permits is when the town can expect to begin the digging process. Rick Murray asked the difference in pricing between using the Mass Bay site and the Cape Cod Bay site. After some analysis, Ms. Fields shared that Cape Cod Bay would be least expensive. Brian Kelly asked Ms. Fields when she thinks the best time for the town to apply for a grant would be. Ms. Fields shared that the best-case scenario would be the fall of 2025, and a year after that given the worst case.

Old Business

a. Scituate Maritime Parking Lot - Jim Boudreau

Select Board Liaison, Susan Harrison, shared after speaking with Town Administrator, Jim Boudreau, a town engineer has been assigned to the project. He is going to fill the potholes for a temporary solution and work on a plan for repairs. A contractor, and slip holder, Phil Johnson, wants to discuss some additional thoughts with Jeff, the town engineer. Repairs are estimated to be done prior to the season opening of the Marina and Maritime Center.

b. Harbor Wi-Fi Update – Jim Boudreau

Ms. Harrison updated the commission after speaking with Mr. Boudreau that there has still not been any communication with the original Wi-Fi vendor. The town's IT Department doesn't have the bandwidth to handle this. Scituate's Director of Information Technology, Michael Minchello is now working with Aot Technology Solutions to design and price out a system.

c. Dock Boxes Update – Brian Cronin

Chair Dinneen shared the thought of tying dock box opportunities in to the Town of Scituate's lottery program. How many dock boxes can actually be placed at the Maritime Center is still being determined, and will only be located on the main floats there.

Discussion on fairness of being awarded a dock box space one year and the next not having it was discussed. It was said that it will come down to finding out how many dock boxes will actually be able to go down there to decide how the program will run.

Scituate Resident, Mike O'Neil, of 33 Circuit Ave, shared that dock boxes cost \$1,000 to \$1,400 and that there is enough room on the docks to have them on both sides according to both federal and state regulations. He went on to say that it would be punitive to take somebody's dock box

away once they purchased one. Mr. O'Neil also brought up these serving as an economic benefit to the town as well.

Chair Dinneen asked for a motion to be made for the price of the annual fee of a dock box. Rick Murray made a motion for \$125 annual fee regardless of size, which was seconded by Dave Sincoski, and voted unanimously in favor (7-0-1) by roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Brian Cronin (yes)

Dave Sincoski (yes)

Rick Murray (yes)

Howie Kreutzberg (yes)

Harbormaster Mone (abstained)

Chair Dinneen (yes)

Mike Gibbons (yes)

Brian Kelly (yes)

Dave Sincoski will speak with his contact at the Americans with Disabilities Organization tomorrow to ensure plans are ABA compliant. Once this has been done and the amount of dock boxes has been decided on, the commission can bring the amendment to the next Select Board meeting. Harbormaster Mone will get mailings out to boaters in the beginning of February.

Liaison Reports

a. SHARC (Pier 44) - Howie Kreutzberg

Howie Kreutzberg shared that the engineering work continues so that the committee can decide how much CDC funding they will request.

b. Economic Development Commission – Howie Kreutzberg

Mr. Kreutzberg shared that the Economic Development Commission is scheduled to meet tomorrow. Therefore, he has no updates.

c. Cole Parkway Redevelopment Committee – Mike Gibbons

Mike Gibbons shared that this is in the engineering phase, with survey work being done. Recommendations will be given from here. He also shared that the contract has been sent out Holland.

d. Shellfish Advisory Committee – Susan Harrison, Select Board

Susan Harrison shared that the committee is planning to meet early next year to look at evaluating the aquaculture program. She also said that the oysters are growing well out there.

New Business

a. Vice Chairman Position

Chair Dinneen proposed Brian Cronin being the Vice Chair Person of the Waterways Commission. Mr. Cronin agreed.

Police Department Update – Brendan McAuley

Officer McAuley shared that duck hunting has been very active this season. He also mentioned that training on the new platform has continued and the river boat was moved to Cole Parkway.

Financial Update - Brian Kelly

Mr. Kelly updated the commission saying that the town received a better rate for the Cole Parkway project's interdepartmental loan. He said that he would update records and share with the commission.

a. Working Group – Revenue – Brian Cronin

Brian Cronin reported that the working group met and plans to meet again in the next couple of weeks. The group's plan is to have some updates and ideas for future revenue around the harbor at the February meeting.

Waterways Schedule for 2024

The Waterways Schedule was finalized and will be posted.

Participants Q&A

Scituate Resident, Mike Bulman, of 24 Jericho Road, asked if his boaters will be charged costs for the dredging project. Brian Kelly responded to him that he can't answer this with clarity at this point as they are still working out whether the dredging will proceed or not. Chair Dinneen added that the commission is making aiming to make decisions that will benefit the harbor in full.

Chair Dinneen asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 PM, which was made by Rick Murray, seconded by Brian Cronin, and voted unanimously in favor (8-0).

Roll Call Vote:

Brian Cronin (yes)

Dave Sincoski (yes)

Rick Murray (yes)

Howie Kreutzberg (yes)

Harbormaster Mone (yes)

Chair Dinneen (yes)

Mike Gibbons (yes)

Brian Kelly (yes)