



MEETING MINUTES
Waterways Commission Meeting
Wednesday February 1, 2017
SHS Cafeteria
606 Chief Justice Cushing Hwy
7:00 pm

Commission Members in Attendance: Fran McMillen, Brian Cronin, David Friedman, Brian Kelly, Keith Walo, David Glancy, Michael Gibbons, Stephen Mone, Michael Lorusso

Commission Members Absent:

Also in Attendance: Shawn Harris (Board of Selectman)

The Meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by Fran McMillen.

Acceptance of Agenda

Move that the Waterways Commission approve the agenda for February 1, 2017 meeting.
Motion by Brian Cronin Second by Michael Gibbons Unanimous Vote (8-0)

Acceptance of Minutes

Move that the Waterways Commission approve the meeting minutes with an addition to the Harbormaster Report for January 4, 2017 meeting. Motion by Stephen Mone Second by Michael Gibbons Unanimous Vote (9-0)

Opening Remarks:

Fran McMillen addressed the audience. The Commission would be going over the consultant report. He thanked everyone for their response. He said the Commission would compile questions for the consultant.

Old Business:

Harbormaster Report:

Consultant Report:

Recommendations:

Comparing our harbor to other harbors: Fran said they were concentrating on slip docking fees for Town marinas. Consultant said market for Scituate was strong. Consultant said he'd raise slip cost \$30/ft over several years period, not beginning this year.

Revenue for Waterways activities: Consultant did not see any problems there.

Might want to look at optimization/re-gridding of the harbor

Harbormaster should make improving customer service a higher priority.

Waterways Commission is to serve as advisors to Board of Selectman in regards to Waterways Activities. Commission recommended no changes.

Mooring Rules and Regulations:

Definitions:

New addition is mooring areas: Now mooring areas are divided. There are two areas in harbor and six areas in the North/South Rivers. Brian Cronin wanted clarification on the Humarock area. Stephen Mone said that people specifying what area they want to be in, will speed up the process of the wait list. Everyone will receive an invoice that is on the wait list.

Waiting List: application has to be an agreement in person by mail or email with renewal of \$5 annually. Harbormaster will send a bill by January 15. Payment will need to be paid by March 1 by check or credit card only. Failure to pay will result in name being removed. Once someone is notified that a mooring is available, they will have 7 days to respond. Keith Walo thinks 7 days is too short. Michael Gibbons thinks 7 days is fine. Brian Kelly said that there are other places that have a 48 hour window. Brian Cronin asked if the Harbormaster would be comfortable sending out a renewal reminder. Stephen said he would be happy because it will simplify everything because people can return slip with payment.

Payment for mooring: new permitting must be sole or 51% majority ownership (registration, title, coast guard documentation, insurance must accompany form). The mooring ball will have the name that is on all paperwork. Fran thought that the consultant did a great job with this. David Glancy asked about spouse ownership. Stephen Mone said that the federal government considers a spouse as the same person. One spouse has to be managing partner but both own. Michael Gibbons asked about insurance documentation. Stephen said it's in a different section. Someone in the crowd said "entity" should be used rather than "corporation." Audience members are concerned about this if they share a boat with siblings (1/3, 1/3 and 1/3).

Mooring Rules and Regulations: Billed by Feb 1 and paid by April 1- if payment failure to pay by April 1 then the mooring will be given to wait list. A change of insurance amount would have to go to Selectman. It can be spelled out when the bill is given. If ground tackle is not purchased from previous owner, it will need to be removed in 7 business days and the Harbormaster can remove. The Commission recommends changing it 14 days.

Jim Spelman is concerned about moorings being moved. Stephen Mone said that the consultant was trying to let everyone understand that the mooring is not property. It is a permit to have a spot in the harbor. Stephen said even if it was re-gridded, people wouldn't be moved to different areas of the harbor or from the harbor to the river.

Moorings need to be utilized for at least 30 days in a calendar year. Keith Walo said it would be very hard to tracked. Stephen said the rule is there for people to try to use their mooring. Someone from the audience was concerned that if they are retired and want to travel more, that might put them in jeopardy. Stephen said that would be an instance that someone could go in and talk to him.

Mooring Specifications:

- A. Keith Walo had concern with 3" names being placed on mooring balls. Stephen Mone said he's only concerned with 3" numbers.
- B. David Friedman thinks that the fines shouldn't be specified in the regulations. Fran said that the by-laws will be added in the end of the document. David thinks the regulations shouldn't have amounts.

Fran said there's a change in chain size on 40' boats.

Mooring Service Providers: need proof from Harbormaster. Harbormaster said he could print lists for the service providers. Keith Walo asked what a cause for suspension would be. Stephen said falsifying documents and not doing inspections.

Phylis Karlberg asked about if a boat were to be off a mooring for 7 days. Stephen Mone said that the reason for that is if there is an emergency that he can put a boat on there (safe harbor in a storm for example). Audience members are concerned about liability. Stephen said it's in his legal rights to use a vacant mooring but it's for emergency situations. Stephen O'Donoghue clarified that if there were damage, the mooring owner will not be liable. The person that owns the vessel's insurance company would be responsible.

There was discussion regarding winter sticks having to be off by May 15. Mooring Service providers are responsible for the removal. If they are not removed, they will be cut off. People do not want to be at risk of losing their mooring or being penalized if the service provider can't get to it on a timely manner.

There was discussion regarding moving boats off of docks during storms. Insurance is also related to removing boats off of docks.

Slip fees: ten marinas were surveyed. The consultant said slips in Scituate are in high demand. Consultant said raising \$30/ft would be advised for both resident and non-resident fees. Stephen Mone said implementing new fees would have to go to the Selectman. Slip customers have already committed to this year so Stephen thinks that the slip fees should remain what they currently are for this year but increase next year if that is what the Selectman approve. Keith Walo asked why we would increase the rates when there's already money in the Enterprise Fund. Stephen Mone did submit Capital Plan for the next five years to the consultant. Jim Spelman thinks that it shouldn't be how to maximize the profit for the Town. Michael Gibbons said maybe the consultant could do an analysis for what the profit of increasing the \$30/ft would help with. Brian Cronin reiterated that rates haven't increased since 2003.

Keith Walo addressed the issue of signing children up for the wait list. He wants to know if children can be kept on a list if they're close to the top but just be skipped until they're 18 years of age.

David Friedman asked about software that was recommended. It was decided to discuss that at a future meeting.

Bill Denehey asked what the Commission's position on grandfathering wait list regulations. Fran said moorings will be given out this year once the consultant report is finalized. Stephen told Bill to come down to the office if he wants to put a preference on area or change size of boat that was on original application.

There was discussion regarding commercial/recreational mooring categories. Stephen said there are proposed changes to categories.

Next meeting to be determined

Adjournment

There being no other business a motion was made by Brian Cronin to adjourn at 8:57pm second by Brian Kelly Unanimous Vote (9-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelli Rodgers
Recording Secretary