

Waterways Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday February 6th, 2012
Scituate Maritime Center, 119 Edward Foster Road
7:15 pm

I.Meeting called to order by Chairperson Eckhouse at 7:15pm

In attendance were: Keith Walo, David Glancy, Harbormaster Mark Patterson, Chairperson Dick Eckhouse, Peter Toppan, Don Hourihan, Fran McMillan, Bob McHugh, Selectman Rick Murray, Brad White, Brian Cronin, Ethan Maass, Mike Sullivan, Jamie Noonan, Kathy Cerruti, Steve Guard, Jeff Rosten, Jeff Frank and Liz Chartton

II.The agenda was unanimously accepted by the WWC

III. Acceptance of past minutes: David Glancy made the motion to accept the minutes of December 5th, 2012, Peter Toppan 2nd the motion, the WWC voted unanimously in favor.

IV.Opening remarks

- A.** How to distribute/revise minutes – Chairperson Eckhouse emphasized the proper way to comment on draft minutes in order to abide by open meeting laws.
- B.** Report on slip deposits and mooring renewals – Harbormaster Mark Patterson said the program was well received and has gone well, so far. His office has already filled slip vacancies for the coming season.
- C.** Bob McHugh announced that “The Tinkers Son”, in Norwell, would be hosting a fundraiser in March to help Tucker Patterson after the unfortunate fire that destroyed his lobster boat.

V. Old Business

- A. Update on Phase II of Harborwalk** – Harbormaster Mark Patterson stated that he has gone before the CPC in the hopes of receiving grant money for this project. The CPC did not vote whether they would support this project, at their January 29th meeting. They will hopefully vote at their next meeting, which is scheduled for Monday, February 11th at 7pm, at GAR Hall.
- B. Update on joint dredging project with Marshfield** – Harbormaster Mark Patterson stated that he has met with the Town of Marshfield, their Engineer, and the Marshfield Harbormaster Mike DiMeo. They are uncertain how the towns will share responsibility for the dredging. Scituate’s current priority is the dredging at the mouth of the South River. Don Hourihan noted that the riprap is being replaced on Truant Island, an indication of the erosion that has taken place in the area. He also suggested the idea of ‘near dumping’ when the dredging takes place. Mr. Patterson said that Marshfield would hydraulically pump the sand south of the Sea Street Bridge while it will need to be mechanically dredged at the mouth of the South River because of cobble. Chairperson Dick Eckhouse mentioned the extensive efforts that are involved in permitting these types of projects.
- C. Update on change to Mooring Regulations** – Selectman Rick Murray stated that the BOS has received the necessary paperwork and the topic is going to be put on the BOS agenda in the near future. He is aware of the fact that the issue needs to be resolved in time to notify people of the new deadline to remove winter sticks. Also, the Harbormaster would like to change some other regulations and invited people to volunteer to be on a subcommittee. Brian Cronin, David Glancy and Steve Guard volunteered to work on drafting revised regulations along with Mr. Patterson. In addition to these discussions, Don Hourihan warned people to remember the danger of clamming on ice.
- D. Goals for the WWC** – Peter Toppan listed the following 15 items:
- #1 support the Harbormaster
 - #2 improve Scituate
 - Install dumpster and screen plantings at SMC
 - Finish Maritime Center Facility, including soundproofing and showers
 - Resolve issues with storage area and kayak rack at SMC
 - The electrical shed needs to be moved
 - Delineate parking, perhaps using repurposed mooring chain?
 - GIS mapping/harbor regriding
 - Seek out CPC funds for harborwalk
 - Better access for transient boaters
 - New activities for Scituate Harbor (perhaps racing?)
 - Dredging – Since mobilization is a large portion of the cost it would make sense to coordinate harbor maintenance dredging with other dredging projects.
 - Shellfish reseeding
 - Improvements to structures at Cole Pkwy, etc. Also, more public restroom facilities are needed.
 - Look for new grants that the town could apply for

This list will be emailed to the group and the Chairperson invites everyone to send him their feedback of what they believe the top five priorities of the WWC should be.

E. Town Pier operation – Brad White did some preliminary research on what people are interested in seeing at the soon to be revitalized town pier. The list is as follows:

- Improve the structure to meet OSHA standards
- Side docking facility with ADA ramp
- Ice House
- Allow docking schedules for sightseeing boats
- Rest room facilities and Pier Manager office
- Small picnic area

Bob McHugh asked about a new winch at the town pier. Mr. White said he would add that to the list. He then invited everyone to send comments to him at Marshfield@aol.com.

VI. New Business

A. Scituate Boat Show – Harbormaster Mark Patterson said that he has submitted a permit application to the town for a boat show on July 6th. He wants to start small and see how it goes this year. There will be boats on display and narrated tours of the harbor. Bob McHugh mentioned that this year is the 35th anniversary of the blizzard of '78. He suggested that perhaps the boat show could bring attention to or even give monetary support to the SANDS organization. He will get back to the Harbormaster about this. Peter Toppan suggested that perhaps the Friends of Sloops could coordinate their visit to coincide with the boat show. Brad White said that he would see if there is any other interest while he is at the Boat Builders Show on Cape Cod. Ethan Maass mentioned the Salem Classic Boat Show and thought it was a good model for Scituate. Selectman Rick Murray suggested that in the future Scituate might be able to invite the Salem Boat Show to our harbor. Fran McMillan reminded the group of how successful the art exhibit was last year.

B. Harbormaster's Goals for FY13 – Harbormaster Mark Patterson listed the following items:

- Encourage water use
- Ongoing dredging
- Facilitate excursion boats
- Rehabilitate critical maritime infrastructure
- Clam reseeding, assist Mass Audubon, acquire pump out boat (Brad White stated that he felt the fencing on the spit has gotten overwhelming. Selectman Murray said that this is a conservation issue and suggested that a letter could be written to the Town Administrator.)

B. Town Marina Recycling – Kathleen Rose Cerruti, representing Sustainable Scituate, presented a possible recycling program to the WWC. She would like to see Scituate make recycling possible for transient boaters. Ms. Cerruti has received a quote from EOMS. To implement the program would cost \$135 per month, once the program was established this could be reduced to as little as \$75 per month to get recycling picked up. Sustainable Scituate would take care of all promotion of the program. There would still be dumpsters for the trash but smaller ones may be adequate once recycling is separated out. The Harbormaster said he would call and look into this program. Keith Walo stated that he would sponsor this program for two years if his company name were put on each recycling barrel. Selectman Rick Murray stated that any sponsorship would need to be approved by the Town Administrator. Peter Toppan made the motion to support this initiative, David Glancy 2nd the motion, the WWC voted unanimously in favor. David Glancy made the motion to table this item, Peter Toppan 2nd the motion, the WWC voted unanimously in favor.

C.Sailing Program – Jamie Noonan

The Town of Scituate Recreation Department received a request from the SHS to help them create a sailing team by allowing them use of their boats, and they have. This had been one of the goals of the Rec Department’s 420 program. Mr. Noonan highlighted the following items to be coordinated with the Harbormaster:

- Possibly locating the Mercury dock 20’ further from the marsh.
- When the J24 program is up and running they will need an appropriate storage location designated for their use, perhaps a permanent mooring?
- Soon they will need a chase boat, perhaps even a second and a slip or mooring
- They are looking to replace the older Mercury boats.

D.New Fishing Regulations – Brad White

Mr. White suggested that we keep in mind the changes taking place within the fishing industry as we talk about the pier revitalization. Mr. White also gave updates on other news:

- The arsonist that started numerous local fires has been caught.
- Mr. White attended the Marshfield WWC meeting in November and they will hopefully adopt the same verbiage our WWC has regarding waterfowl hunting on the rivers. Selectman Murray suggested that Mr. White have the Marshfield WWC send a copy of their official statement to the Scituate Conservation Commission.
- Clamming is not supposed to be done when it is below 32 degrees. Everyone Mr. White has come into contact with seems to have permits, which is good news and an improvement from last season.

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VII. Discussion Items

A. Discussion on Waterways financials – Chairperson Dick Eckhouse prepared a spreadsheet showing the Waterways Enterprise Fund financials. He pointed out that the enterprise’s free cash is growing due to the Harbormasters efforts. He manages \$8 million in town assets and does an outstanding job. Right now, there isn’t a need to increase any fees but that may change in the future. Peter Toppan asked whether the enterprise funds free cash could be transferred to another department in town? The answer was, no. Also, an Assistant Harbormaster job opportunity has been posted.

B. Continuing discussion on regridding the harbor – Chairperson Eckhouse is taking the lead on this item.

C. ‘One design’ in the harbor – Selectman Rick Murray said that he thought the new Scituate Sailors team is going to be a great addition to the High School. There has been a lot of discussion of ‘one design’ in the harbor. Mr. Murray brought up the question of how we could combine fleets while building interest. Jeff Rosen, a citizen in town, said that the J24’s are a ‘one design’ fleet that he sails, on Wednesday’s and they bring a lot of business into the town. The Recreation Department got a 420–racing program started and now the young people are excited to have ‘one design’. Mr. Rosen said that 4–6 boats would be needed to race. Corporate sponsorships are one way the town could build a fleet. The major issue is where to store the boats? Some options would be: use a lift, store them at the town pier, or to use two slips and take out the finger between in order to stack multiple boats in the space. Having a ‘one design’ fleet would enable extended instruction, racing and recreation in the harbor but would require the support of the commission. Selectman Murray said the town could benefit by bringing back the frost bitter fleet to help businesses in the off–season. Daniel Twigg brought up the idea of a hoist being used to put boats in the water. He has a website: www.smartscituateharbor.org and handed out information. Mr. Twigg talked about bringing sailing back to Scituate Harbor in the spring and fall when business could use it and the wind is better.

VIII. Adjournment – Chairperson Dick Eckhouse adjourned the meeting at 9:06pm.

Submitted by Simone Zimmerman