

Waterways Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday June 5th, 2013
Scituate Maritime Center
7:15 pm

- I. **Meeting Called to Order** – By Chairperson Eckhouse at 7:15 pm
In attendance: Chairperson Eckhouse, Peter Toppan, Larry Niland, Dave Glancy, Harbormaster Patterson, Bob McHugh, Don Hourihan, Brian Cronan, Vin Lanoue, Ethan Maass, Jeff Frank, Fran McMillan, Mike Sullivan, Kathy Cerruti, Brad White, John Murphy, Mike Gibbons, Jim D.
- II. **The Agenda was unanimously accepted.**
- III. **May 1st minutes** – Chairperson Eckhouse asked for any comments, there were none. The minutes were held b/c there was not a quorum of members at the time.
- IV. **Opening remarks** – Chairperson Eckhouse stated that he would continue to update the project summary chart as time goes on.
- V. **Old Business**
 - A. **Marinas** – Harbormaster Patterson said the season is off to a good start. The marinas are currently at 50% capacity and are sold out for the season.
 - B. **Suggested changes to Mooring Regulations** – Chairperson Eckhouse pointed out that there have been no further comments on the suggested mooring regulation changes. He made the motion to write a letter presenting the changes to the BOS, Larry Niland 2nd the motion, the WWC voted unanimously in favor. (Note: There WAS a quorum of members by this time.)
 - C. **Change in Marina contract dates for slips** – Harbormaster Patterson sent an email blast to neighboring harbors asking for information. Hingham Harbor said April 27th is their opening day. May 15th was very popular with other harbors. Chairperson Eckhouse asked if Scituate could make theirs May 1st, “weather permitting”. The Harbormaster felt that would be difficult considering they have a contract with boaters. He said he thought the first step could be to open the Scituate Marine Park earlier, at a price to the boaters, and see what the demand is. If this were to happen patrols would be necessary as well.
 - D. **SMP dumpster enclosure** – Harbormaster Patterson said they have a general location for the dumpster enclosure. He has been watching the goings on and feels a small shift would help and will see to that.

- E. Finish SMP landscaping** – Harbormaster Patterson stated that some items that were owed are being installed, and some are still under contract (to ensure their survival). There is still some CPC money left, which will be used to create a buffer along the side of the boatyard.
- F. Mooring insurance considerations** – Vin Lanoue spoke to his insurance broker. An insurance company could write a \$1 million policy at a cost of 1.2 % of that to the town. The suggestion was made that boaters on moorings be required to prove they have insurance just like with boat slips. There was general discussion on who owns the mooring. John Murphy asked Fran McMillan about his private insurance. Mr. McMillan responded that his company has liability insurance on gear and any work done to gear. Chairperson Eckhouse commented that there is no state requirement for boaters to have insurance but the town shouldn't have to pay for it. He felt it was the responsibility of each boater to have liability insurance. John Murphy pointed out all of the costs that could be incurred, environmental etc. For example, the James Landing fire caused \$6 million in damage. Brad White said that he felt the town should at least require boaters to have an umbrella on their home-owners insurance policy for example. Fran McMillan pointed out that chaffing, which is the most common cause of boats breaking free from their mooring, is often labeled an 'Act of God' by insurance companies. Ethan Maass said that a vessel and her owner are responsible for any damage done, whether the owner has insurance or not. Fran McMillan stated that he was concerned that there is more to this issue and the WWC doesn't have enough information to make any determination yet. Ethan Maass suggested that the WWC speak with an admiralty attorney. The Harbormaster feels that the town would want as much of a safety net as possible but would need to research this issue more. Chairperson Eckhouse asked that the WWC get more information and they could hope to vote on this at July's meeting. Chairperson Eckhouse made the motion to postpone this issue, Larry Niland 2nd, the WWC voted unanimously in favor. Finally, Brad White asked to see other harbors transient waivers, Vin Lanoue will get this information.
- G. Continuing discussion on regriding the harbor** – Fran McMillan and Simone Zimmerman will work with Harbormaster Patterson on this.
- H. Canoe and kayak storage at the SMC** – Harbormaster Patterson said he felt this would be better left in the private realm and it will probably not be done for this season.
- I. Rinse off shower at the SMC** – Harbormaster Patterson said this would be done this week. It will consist of a post with a hose and shower-head.

- J. **Access ramp for canoes and kayaks** – This is tied to the storage issue.

VI. **New Business**

VII. **Discussion Items**

- A. Recycling – Kathleen Cerruti brought various fliers to display. The Harbormaster asked if they keep track of how much has been recycled? She was not sure. The Harbormaster commented that the program was just getting under way and he was hopeful it would be a success.
- B. Brad White asked about the town providing Wi-Fi to the harbor. The Harbormaster said that the town has a capital project outlined to create a wireless network in the harbor. Mr. White said that he looked at the Waterways website and he would like to see more detail on it. Perhaps it could even link to the town report for 2012? The Harbormaster suggested that Mr. White email Bill Sheehan in the town office and ask the status of the Wi-Fi project. John Murphy said he spoke with Mr. Sheehan recently and he is hopeful that the project will be done in July.
- C. Brad White talked about the annual clam relay. Scituate will seed 100 bushels of quahogs on June 12 at 3pm from Damon's Point. He invited volunteers to come and help. The Town of Marshfield will seed steamers at the end of June.
- D. Brad White mentioned that he had a soft grounding in front of AtoZ. There is shallow water around the 3A bridge creating a dangerous situation. Mr. White spoke with the Marshfield Harbormaster, Mike DeMao, who said he would mark it.
- E. Don Hourighan asked about dredging. He wondered if there would be 'near shore dumping' to be used as beach replenishment? And whether the previous permits are still active? He doesn't want to see all the past costs incurred again. The Harbormaster replied that the permits were project specific. John Murphy said that on the Cape they get permits for 10 years, maybe Scituate can try for that too? Perhaps Scituate and Marshfield can share a maintenance barge? John Murphy asked about Marshfield's permitting for their dredging project? Harbormaster Patterson said they are not ready yet. John Murphy suggested we try to coordinate if possible?

- F. Someone in the audience asked why there hadn't been a pump out boat in the river? The Harbormaster answered that it is being repaired and so his crew will take care of any flags on Friday.
- G. Brad White mentioned that he was on the Spit between noon-8pm on Saturday and there was no trash left behind! However, he felt there was too much fencing and many agreed.

VIII. **Adjournment** - Chairperson Eckhouse adjourned the meeting at 8:27pm

Submitted by Simone Zimmerman