

Waterways Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday December 5th, 2012
Scituate Maritime Center, 119 Edward Foster Road
7:15 pm

I. Meeting Called to Order –By Chairperson Eckhouse at 7:15 p.m.

In Attendance were: Dave Glancy, Peter Toppan, Chairperson Eckhouse,
Larry Niland, Mary McLaughlin, Fran McMillen, Keith
Walo, Jeff Frank, Michael Gibbons, Brian Cronin, Don
Hourihan, Selectman Rick Murray and Padraic Doherty

II. Acceptance of Agenda – The agenda was unanimously accepted.

III. Acceptance of Past Minutes – Motion to accept the meeting minutes of
November 7th, 2012 was made by Chairperson Eckhouse, 2nd by Larry
Niland, the WWC voted unanimously (6–0) in favor.

IV. Opening remarks – Eckhouse

A. Reminder slip deposits were due 12/3 – Eckhouse

B. Reminder mooring list renewals by 12/31 – Eckhouse

V. Old Business

A. Marinas – Chairperson Eckhouse stated that the marinas are ready for
the winter season.

1. Cole Parkway

2. Scituate Marine Park

a) Upland park project

- B. Update on winter sticks bylaw** – The question was asked whether the commission was going to add a regulation specifying the type of winter sticks used? Peter Toppan made a point that the wood sticks are environmentally friendly. Fran McMillen stated that the beginning and ending dates were the original concern and that the proposed date change should take care of any boats hitting winter sticks. Keith Walo asked that the BOS let the WWC know before April if they have approved the new date of May 15th. There was a comment from the audience regarding duck hunters in the South River and whether there should be special consideration made for them. Dave Glancy pointed out that mooring balls can be left all winter, it is not required that winter sticks be used. Also, that the WWC would not be requiring wood, just as they are not requiring plastic. The decision from the board was that the regulation change would refer only to the dates and NOT include a specification of type of winter sticks used. Dave Glancy made the motion to end the discussion on type of sticks used, Peter Toppan 2nd the motion. The WWC voted unanimously (6–0) NOT to change the regulation on type of winter sticks that can be used.
- C. Update on rehabilitation of Town Pier** – Selectman Rick Murray petitioned the WWC to brainstorm about how the town pier functions. He is seeking input from the fishing community and from the WWC on how operations could be made better. Whether new facilities should be included? And whether it can be more of a pedestrian destination? He stated that considering the large investment of \$500,000 being made by both the state and the town, he would like to evaluate the project thoroughly. The project could be completed in as few as 6 months, so before it begins Selectman Murray would like to hear any ideas on whether the pier can be made more attractive or more accessible. Dick Eckhouse responded that he would talk to Mark Patterson and make a presentation to the WWC at the next meeting. Larry Niland asked if the initial grant application to the state had been insufficient? Rick Murray responded that the report was fine but that he wants to look beyond the structural needs of the pier. Peter Toppan stated that in the 1990's an ice house was built on the pier and failed, however, the idea of local fishermen getting ice on site was valid. He feels fishermen may want an ice house again. Don Hourihan stated that he doesn't think pedestrians should be encouraged. A commercial fishing pier is too dangerous a place and any number of accidents could occur with the type and amount of work taking place. In summary, Selectman Rick Murray asked the WWC to help him do due diligence before the town pier project gets under way.

D. Update on Phase II of Harborwalk –Chairperson Eckhouse stated that John Murphy is working on this. Other towns have received grant money for this type of project so the WWC is hopeful that perhaps Scituate will also.

E. Update on dredging – There was a question from the audience of where the proposed dredging will take place? Chairperson Eckhouse answered that there is an area under the Sea St. Bridge and another at the mouth of the South River. However, the dredging has yet to be organized with Marshfield.

VI. Discussion Items

A. Pump-out requests; one number to call; continuing discussion – Chairperson Eckhouse proposed that there be a buoy alerting boaters to call on a specific channel with pump out requests. Fran McMillen stated that the State has professional buoys that announce the channel to call for pump out. Dave Glancy made the motion to use this system, Larry Niland 2nd the motion. The WWC voted unanimously (6-0) in favor of adopting this system.

B. Continuing discussion on regriding the harbor – Chairperson Eckhouse will take the lead on this project. He stated that various agencies are looking for this to be done before awarding grant money to towns.

C. Continuing discussion on parking for catering trucks – Chairperson Eckhouse stated that John Murphy has taken the lead on this project along with Neil Duggan and Jeff Dougan. They have proposed to take the current showers and slide them a few feet into the current bathroom space. The bathrooms will lose a few feet in the area near the toilets but will remain accessible and in accordance with regulations. This will create a corridor from the front of the building directly into the main room along the North side. It will also create storage space along the south side. John Murphy hopes to have the project completed by March 31st. Selectman Rick Murray said that the proposal has the support of the Harbormaster. Chairperson Eckhouse said that the proposal would need to go before the BOS, 3 bids would need to be received, and that the Scituate Maritime Center Foundation would be contributing \$16,000. If all goes as planned the issue will be resolved before the next boating season. Larry Niland stated that he has previously reminded Mark Patterson and would now like to remind the WWC, that if we are going to change the use of the space (which we are not, in this case) we would need to go back to the State for approval. Chairperson Eckhouse stated that working with the town Facilities Manager has been very helpful. He feels the SMC is a beautiful facility, and as the town extends the Harborwalk, they may want to make the facilities available year round for trekkers.

D.Budget – Chairperson Eckhouse will be working on the budget and sharing the information with the WWC by next week. He will include the Enterprise Fund information from the last 3 years. The budget is for the Waterways Department, not the WWC. The Town Administrator asks for goals under the Harbormasters purview, which are not necessarily the WWC goals, but most likely they coincide. Selectman Rick Murray said that the budget should be discussed at the January meeting because Mark Patterson will be presenting his department budget to the BOS close to the 3rd week in January. The department head and paired committee chairperson present the budget to the BOS together.

E. The next meeting of the WWC will be held on Wednesday, Jan 2nd, 2013 at 7:15 p.m. at the SMC.

VII.Adjournment –Peter Toppan made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Larry Niland 2nd the motion. The WWC voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm.

Submitted by Simone Zimmerman