



**MEETING MINUTES
Waterways Commission Meeting
Wednesday, September 6th, 2017
Scituate Maritime Center
119 Edward Foster Road
7:00 PM**

Commission Members in Attendance: Frank McMillen, Brian Cronin, Brian Kelly, Keith Waldo, Michael Gibbons, Stephen Mone, David Glancy,

Commission Members Absent: David Friedman and Michael LoRusso.

Also in Attendance: Chief Michael Stewart, Brendan McAuley, Mark Thompson

Meeting was called to order by Fran McMillen at 7:06 PM

**A motion was made by Fran McMillen to accept the minutes from the July meeting.
Unanimous Vote (7 -0)**

HARBORMASTER REPORT

Harbormaster Mone reviewed the Cole Parkway Piling project and the budget of \$102,400.00 was the bid from the engineer. This engineer is doing a similar project in Harwich.

The selectmen approved the hiring for this project, and this included an electrical engineer, who is also reviewing the electrical at Cole Parkway. He met with Paul Scott as well.

The Harbormaster noted that they have assigned over 80 moorings. Each year about 20 moorings are turned over.

Summer was good, a few issues – Police assistance was requested at the Spit. They wanted all the boaters were off the Spit by dark, some younger folks remained. Two boats were escorted to Marshfield Police. Later another boat was detected with 11 people; this boat was escorted to Scituate Harbor and turned over to Scituate Police. One person was taken to the hospital from each incident.

Recently a boat was taking on water; the Coast Guard responded as well as Scituate PD, they took the person from the water. This individual was taken to Marshfield. Several tows were reported, but it was a relative calm summer.

A one button shut down system was installed on Cole Parkway and one incident took place where it operated as it should for the power system.

All Mooring fees have been collected, which is an improvement over other years. An on line system will be implemented in coming months for ease of use by boating community.

Dick Eckhouse asked if the engineering project is within allocated budget and it was according to HARBORMASTER Mone.

Another question was asked about the mooring reassignment process and if it was following new procedures. HARBORMASTER Mone responded yes, the new process was implemented.

A question was asked about the hiring process for assistant harbormasters, HARBORMASTER Mone said he interviews each person hired. There were several instances described that vessels were in jeopardy and the staff were not aware or informed about how to respond to sinking/taking on water. HARBORMASTER Mone responded that patrols were out at all times, and all docks are monitored. Personnel were pumping those that were in danger. Difficult to check each and every vessel, and responsibility for each boat is part of ownership. HARBORMASTER Mone described the staff as retired police, six Mass Maritime students, and experienced personnel that are trained to respond. HARBORMASTER Mone outlined that the HARBORMASTER closes at 12 Midnight until the next morning. 24 hour maintenance was phased out about 20 years ago.

Peter Toppan– 26 Clapp Road asked that the speakers identify themselves in order to be recorded in the minutes.

Tim Montg omery –345 Hatherly Road – when will the mooring project be done – HARBORMASTER Mone said this is underway and the renumbering will be next year to completed

Mark Thompson, Brendan McAuley, Mike Stewart were introduced, and mentioned that monitoring with the police boat is not feasible for overnight hours, due to personnel and budget.

Officer McAuley is in charge of the Marine Unit of SCITUATE POLICE DEPARTMENT. It will take several years, and considerable training with the Coast Guard, and the Environmental Police to be fully Stewart recommended that the harbor needs to be monitored at all times and approaching the selectmen for that allocation should be done.

Officer McAuley handed out a report on some incidents that have happened recently. He reviewed the capabilities of the officers that are assigned to the Marine Unit. He outlined a third party was brought in to do the training, there is a written test, and other training is conducted by Environmental Police, Coast Guard and Marshfield police. Each year there are additional training opportunities.

Officer Thompson- spoke about how the unit is Metropolitan Law Enforcement is a compilation of several areas that have come together to provide training and expertise to assist. SWAT, Search and Rescue, and this year a Marine Diver Unit are part of the group maintaining safety in Scituate and neighboring waterways. Officers are highly trained in these various disciplines.

Rescue and Recovery is very different and this opportunity to have them available is a great benefit to our Marine Unit. Our Marine Unit does not have dive equipment

Gary Ramos inquired as to an incident several weekends ago, and the Marine Unit was throwing a wave. Mr. Ramos asked if the Marine unit was responsible for damage, Officer McAuley responded affirmatively that they were aware. He also mentioned that they wait till they cleared a certain area and the boat gains plane. They are not holding Coast Guard license but do have comparable training and boating courses via multiple disciplines.

Chief Stewart asked for suggestions since it is a work in process, and Phyllis asked why they could not double up. Chief Stewart said they need experienced staff to man the unit. There needs to be two on the Marine Unit.

Hours of operation are mostly daytime. Weekdays in the evening if there are sailboat races. Typically they are on the boat 8 hours a day. A question was posed as to how many "calls" were responded to since inception of the unit. Chief Stewart said he could obtain those statistics.

Howie Kreutzberg asked if the HARBORMASTER staff, the Scituate Fire Department, and the Coast Guard are all tasked with the same type of functions. Chief Stewart outlined that the Fire is Rescue, and if it is a Recovery, it is a task for the Police. Howie said he questioned the duplication of services. Fran McMillen asked about the funding for this Police Unit. Chief Stewart responded that it comes from the Department. Fran McMillen outlined a volunteer system that used to exist, but it is no longer in service per Chief Stewart.

Kathy Donohue asked if all units respond, who is in charge. Outside the harbor, it is the Coast Guard, inside the harbor it is the Harbormaster. Chief Stewart said, most times they don't know what they are facing, so each service responds in case of certain situations. Mark Thompson spoke about situations that happen on land, the SCITUATE POLICE DEPARTMENT would be in charge. One question is there situations that the SCITUATE POLICE DEPARTMENT could only handle. Officer McCauley outlined that they can patrol 12 miles offshore and conduct operations. SCITUATE POLICE DEPARTMENT can stop vessels for safety checks, and impaired drivers or drugs, or underage boating.

Mark Thompson outlined the activity at the SPIT where folks are not from the area in some cases. SCITUATE POLICE DEPARTMENT can do checks on licensing for potential warrants, or past demonstrated infractions in other jurisdictions. The SCITUATE POLICE DEPARTMENT needs to maintain those inspections and interactions so the Spit will be a safe place. Most of their monitoring is done in the river and the Spit. Labor Day was spent in the areas where crowds are gathering: the SPIT, deep Hole, and Cohasset. Kathy Donohue said prior HARBORMASTER had a visible boat in the North River stationed to monitor traffic and speeds.

HARBORMASTER has Chapter 90B authority. A question was asked about weapons, Mark Thompson referred to a flare as a weapon. He said they have the technology to run checks on passengers. Peter Toppan said this outline was helpful to get an understanding of each organization's role in responses.

Mark Thompson said this is what it is all about, having more presence and explaining how the SCITUATE POLICE DEPARTMENT Marine Unit works. He encouraged anyone to call and ask questions.

Fran McMillen asked about new business. HARBORMASTER Mone was asked about the mooring discovery process, and he said they are checking all of them and numbering them. He said it is ongoing with missing ones, and ownership status. If there were no numbers or boats on the mooring – there is no way of knowing. HARBORMASTER Mone said they checking the mooring renewals, and they are checking for correct addresses.

Dredging update – Fran said the outcome was mixed at the meeting and they won't know the outcome till March. The commission is aware of the importance, but the funds are not there. Several agencies are involved.

The presentation Fran attended –Fran said there are alternatives, and we should look into what Marshfield is doing. Brian Cronin(a Waterways committee member) suggested we should get the plan that is being looked at and review at the Waterways Committee level in Humarock. The Dune proposed is four feet higher than people's homes. The material is cobble, and could produce more damage.

Howie Kreutzburg said the Commission's mandate should be safety.

Don Hourihan mentioned we don't know what type of composite will be used, who will maintain it, and how many residents will agree to the easement. With the new buildings in town, that they don't want the expense of the dune. Fran said the town will potentially need to buy the material, which could be a problem. Don said they are taking the material down to Wellfleet and that is not the most effective.

Don asked if there is a plan for the dredging. Brian(Waterways Commission Member) mentioned the channel marker NR to the island is the target area – priority will be dangerous areas.

NEW BUSINESS

HARBORMASTER Master might ask for the buoy tender to come in to repaint the buoys. It is reflective of the care taken in the harbor.

Ed Leary 9 Front Street – asked if Harbormaster's budget comes from the Excise Fund or general Town Funds. Harbormaster Mone said their revenue comes from Boat Excise tax and waterways fees. Between moorings and Marinas there are over 2000 boats,(a guesstimate)are in the area and the budget constrains the times that monitoring is able to be provided.

He would like to include other members from various boat clubs from around the Harbor to comment and be involved in Harbormaster processes. Concerns and conversations can be circulated to benefit all. Fran has reached out to the fisherman. Kathy Donahue said it was important that the Harbormasters office reach out. HARBORMASTER Master Mone said they have done outreach. Kathy suggested a report might be part of each waterways Meeting. HARBORMASTER Mone did sent letters and visited Marinas.

A question was asked as to how to become a member of the Waterways Commission.

To be on the commission submit a form to the Town and it is approved by the Selectman. Fran suggested that a person might come as a liaison from each boat club. It was mentioned that the

prior Harbormaster visited boat clubs to talk about options. Peter mentioned that perhaps an ad hoc member be the voice at the meetings. Fran said it would be helpful.

Ed mentioned that there needs to be more information on the monitoring at night in the harbor. A suggestion was made about a firewatch. Another suggestion was made about availability of a restroom and how that could be worked into the budget.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 8:30 pm.