

**TOWN OF SCITUATE, MASSACHUSETTS  
WATERWAYS COMMISSION**



**MEETING MINUTES  
Waterways Commission  
Wednesday, February 1, 2023  
6:00 pm**

**Scituate Town Hall - Select Board Hearing Room/Zoom/Hybrid  
600 Chief Justice Cushing Highway  
Scituate, MA 02066**

**Commission Members Present:** Chair; Rick Murray, Vice Chair; Dave Dinneen, Scituate Harbormaster; Stephen Mone, Mike Gibbons, Brian Kelly, Dave Sincoski, Howie Kreutzberg, Dave Haley, Brian Cronin, Associate Member; T.J. Malvesti,

**Also in Attendance:** Recording Secretary; Alicia Anthony, Select Board Liaison; Maura Curran, EDC Liaison; Fran McMillen, Eric Preuss, of 59 Gannett Road

**Members Not in Attendance:** Associate Member; Steve Guard, Associate Member; Kevin Norton

**Chair Murray called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.**

**Chair, Rick Murray, read the Statement of commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.**

**Chair Murray asked for a motion to be made to accept the meeting agenda, which was made by Harbormaster Mone, seconded by Mike Gibbons, and voted unanimously in favor (9-0) by roll call vote.**

**Chair Murray informed the board of the passing of Joe Noble, a past Scituate Harbormaster employee and well-known on Scituate waters, and asked for a moment of silence.**

**Chair Murray made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 7, 2022 meeting, with one edit, which was made by Dave Haley, seconded by Mike Gibbons, and voted unanimously in favor (9-0) by roll call vote.**

**Correspondence**

Chair Murray read a letter of correspondence regarding damage to the outer jetty of Scituate Harbor written by Scituate Resident, David Ball of 44 Rebecca Road and President of the Cedar

Point Association. Harbormaster Mone spoke on the issue, reporting that he spoke with the Army Core and they are going to put this on their to do list but there are not funds at this time.

### **Administrative Reminder: Completion of Conflict-of-Interest/Ethics On-Line Training**

Chair Murray reminded the board members to complete this training.

### **Harbormaster Report**

#### **A. Marina Rules/Contract/Dock Boxes**

Harbormaster Mone shared copies of the newest updated rules and regulations. He stated that the last time these were updated a year or two ago. Mr. Mone mentioned that it states that dock boxes, appendages, gear, etc., are all prohibited from the marina without permission of the Harbormaster. Harbormaster Mone is concerned with allowing the Dock boxes once the \$3.5M marina rebuild is completed. He is concerned about damage to the new electrical components by allowing users to drill into the docks. He feels that there are plenty of places on boats to store equipment and gear.

Mike Gibbons, stated that when this topic came up last November, it was agreed that due to the width of the docks, there was no way to maintain clear passage ways if dock boxes are present and they would reduce handicap accessibility.

Chairperson Murray stated this exact language that has been in the Rules and Regulations since 2015. Harbormaster Mone agreed, adding that he has never modified the regulations.

Dave Sincoski reminded the board that they invited the public to voice their views back in September. He stated that they have felt marginalized and have voiced to him that they are hesitant to speak up. Mr. Sincoski stated that he feels that the public should have been able to speak prior to the project starting. He agreed with Mr. Gibbons, regarding ADA compliant. Chairperson Murry shared that he is sorry to hear that there are residents that feel they couldn't speak up freely and feels that the Waterways Commission as well as the Harbormaster Department have welcomed all conversation. He added that communications can always be improved and that he would like to work with anyone that has any issues. Mr. Sincoski added that he feels that the committee needs to nurture and explain how communication with the commission operates.

Scituate Resident, Eric Preuss, of 59 Gannett Road was invited to speak regarding dock boxes. Mr. Preuss is a retired Coast Guard Warrant Officer and Boat Captain. He discussed concerns with not having dock boxes and provided several comments.

Chairperson Murray proposed that since the language has been the same since 2015, and is now an enforcement, things continue as is with harbormaster's implementation for the year. He added that he'd like to go down and address things early this summer to see if anything can be thought of for the coming year. Mr. Kreutzberg agreed that if the Harbormaster can come up with a standard for dock boxes that can be supervised, accommodating these might work.

## **B. Code of Conduct**

Harbormaster Mone was asked to review and expand the Code of Conduct. He worked with associate member Steve Guard, attorney, who updated the language. The drafts were then sent to Town Council for additional comments and language.

All users of the municipal marina, mooring holders and the town pier will have to sign the document which will be included in the annual packet the Harbormaster staff send out every spring.

**Chairperson Murray requested a motion stating that the Waterways Commission supports the proposed Code of Conduct for the Town of Scituate municipal marinas, town pier permit holders, and mooring permit holders, to be forwarded to the Selectboard with the Commission's recommendation for approval, which was made by Dave Haley, seconded by Mike Gibbons, and voted unanimously in favor (9-0) by roll call vote.**

## **C. Cole Parkway Dock Replacement Project**

Harbormaster Mone shared that he has received some photographs of the docks that are under construction, and they look great. He plans to go down at the end of next week to look at the progress of the docks and get an update on when they will start to deliver them to Scituate.

Harbormaster Mone also shared that he applied for another grant for the Cole Parkway Marina project and was approved for \$300,000 in additional funding.

## **D. Comprehensive Dredging Permit**

Harbormaster Mone relayed that he has received the RFP's back and has selected the Woods Hole Group. Next week, they are expected to do graph metric surveys of the four locations, over the course of three days.

## **New Business**

### **A. North and South River Shellfish Flats Closure**

The North and South River shellfish Flats are closed for twenty-one days, or until further communication due to an issue up river.

## **Old Business—Updates**

### **A. Maritime Center Parking Lot**

Ms. Curran shared that Town Administrator, Jim Boudreau is looking at re-grading the parking lot as well as the entryway. Ms. Curran shared that the punch list that was shared with the Facilities Department, are all in the process of being worked on.

### **B. Pier 44 Update**

Scituate Resident, Paul Bartkiewicz, of 18 Damon Lane, introduced himself to the board as the Chair of the Scituate Harbor Advisory Redevelopment Commission, also known as the Pier 44 Commission. He then shared a presentation on the project's timeline. Discussion regarding the use of the park talked about who could use it, describes several of the alternatives with various features attempting to capture what

Scituate is. There are features to make the property appealing to families with children, and the possibility for small watercraft to park at the location.

**C. Harbor Wi-Fi**

There was no update since the last meeting with Town Administrator, Harbor Master Mone will reach out prior to boating season.

**D. Maritime Center Scheduling**

Ms. Curran shared that as far as scheduling, events should not impede upon busy boat days, and communication should enhance operations.

**E. Commercial Town Pier Regulations**

Kevin Norton and the fisherman of Scituate want to be good tenants and work well with businesses within the harbor. He outlined several requirements from the draft he and Harbormaster Mone have been working on.

Chairperson Murray asked that he have this in writing for a board to vote on at the next meeting.

**Financial Update**

Mr. Kelly reported that due to the additional grant that Harbormaster Mone was able to receive for the Cole Parkway project, the committee has approximately \$1.6M of cash on hand to apply to a \$2.2M project. Financing of approximately \$650,000 should provide the remainder of the money needed to complete the project. Mr. Kelly has done some projections on this scenario. Mr. Kelly also discussed the dredging project. A \$367,000 grant was obtained, for the \$460,000 project, there are five different pools of money the commission can pull from that will adequately cover this. He then shared his concern about the South River project. There is about \$271,000 of earmark money to apply to the costs, which he feels may be insufficient. Secondly, once the permitting and design of the harbor dredging project is completed, the actual dredging could cost approximately \$2M, which will leave us short financially of approximately \$1M. He stated that he is going to look at surrounding various communities slip and mooring rates to see where we stand with our rates and charges.

Harbormaster Mone then shared that he received notification that based on the recommendations on the mooring system, that system is in place today at Cole Parkway Marina. Going on to say that GEI recommends all vessels except emergency response vehicles be removed from the marina when either of the following criteria (tides predicted above 14 feet and winds sustained above 60 mph) are forecast to occur to prevent damage to occur to the marina. It is also recommended that all emergency vessels be removed from the marina when either of the following criteria (tides predicted above 14.5 feet mean-low water and winds sustained above 70 mph) are forecasted to occur to prevent damage.

**Tentative Remaining Waterways Schedule for 2023**

**Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 6:00 pm, Town Hall, Select Board Room**

**Wednesday, April 5, 2023, 6:00 pm, Town Hall, Select Board Room**

**Wednesday, May 3, 2023, 6:00 pm, Town Library Community Room**

**Tuesday, June 6, 2023, 6:00 pm, Town Library Community Room**

**Tuesday, July 11, 2023, 6:00 pm, Town Library Community Room**

**August....no meeting (as of now)**

**Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 6:00 pm, Town Library Community Room**

**Wednesday, October 4, 2023, 6:00 pm, Town Library Community Room**

**Wednesday, November 1, 2023, 6:00 pm, Town Library Community Room**

**Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 6:00 pm, Town Library Community Room**

### **Participants Q&A**

There were no participant questions.

Harbormaster Mone provided a kayak rack update. The racks have been ordered. They will be built in the Spring. It was agreed that this project will be added to future agendas.

**Chairperson Murray asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m., which was made by Brian Cronin, seconded by Mike Gibbons, and voted unanimously in favor (9-0) by roll call.**