

**TOWN OF SCITUATE, MASSACHUSETTS  
WATERWAYS COMMISSION**



**MEETING MINUTES  
Waterways Commission  
Wednesday, July 11, 2023  
6:00 pm  
Scituate Maritime Center  
117 Edward Foster Road**

**Commission Members Present:** Chair; Rick Murray, Scituate Harbormaster; Stephen Mone, Brian Kelly, Dave Sincoski, Brian Cronin, Associate Member; T.J. Malvesti, Mike Gibbons (arrived late)

**Also in Attendance:** Recording Secretary; Alicia Anthony, Select Board Liaison; Susan Harrison, Brendan McAuley, Marshfield Harbormaster; Mike Dimeo, EDC Liaison; Fran McMillen

**Members Not in Attendance:** Vice Chair; Dave Dinneen, Howie Kreuzberg,

**Chair Murray called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m.**

**Chair 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 Brian Kelly, seconded by Brian Cronin and voted unanimously in favor (5-0).**

**Chair Murray asked for a motion to be made to accept the minutes from the March, April and May 2023 meetings, which was made by Brian Cronin, seconded by Dave Sincoski, and voted unanimously in favor (5-0).**

**Correspondence – Acknowledgement from Select Board for Kayak Racks**

A letter of correspondence dated May 9, 2023, was written to Mr. Kreuzberg from Anthony Vegnani, Chair of the Maritime Center, thanking the Waterways Commission for the donation of the Kayak Project.

**Harbormaster Report**

**A. Seasonal Update**

Harbormaster Mone reported that the Cole Parkway Marina opening went off well. Currently a lot of slips are not occupied. Several slip customers have been relocated due for size purposes. Fire boxes were installed two weeks ago. Slip renters are generally pleased with the project. The reconfiguration zone has been corrected and approved. The Maritime Center had some dock corners repaired as needed. So far, the season has been steady, with a just few emergency calls.

**B. Update to Mooring Inspection Requirements, and Inspector Requirements**

Current policy is the harbormaster sends out renewal due dates from the date it was completed three years prior. Harbormaster Mone is working on a standard deadline (i.e. August 1) for all. This would be implemented for next year.

Scituate Resident, Keith Walo, of 200 Country Way, asked about the date being July 1, Harbormaster Mone indicated he is open to any date, as long as common for all boaters. He would like to see the policy begin during the summer months. Mr. Walo inquired about the process of inspection stickers, to which Harbormaster Mone responded that they could work together to formulate a fair process.

EDC Liaison Fran McMillen mentioned August 1 is ideal in his opinion, due to the stones needing to be moved.

Brad White of Marshfield Hills suggested May 15, due to the possibility of faulty equipment being found, there would be time to address any issues before the season.

Chairperson Murray stated that the commission is going to consider all input.

**C. Requirements of Marina Tenants to Report to Harbormaster any and all Damages to the Marina**

Harbormaster Mone indicated that additional wording will be added to the Requirements of Marine Tenants contract due to a recent boating accident that resulted in dock damage. This will state that boaters will be held responsible for reporting damages and the repairs necessary. The commission discussed wording, as well as consequences, and will continue the discussion at the next Waterways meeting. Once agreed upon, send the updated contract to the Selectboard for approval.

**D. Slip Waitlist Procedure (Online)**

Chairperson Murray shared that this procedure has changed over the years and the current information is on the Harbormaster website.

Member, Brian Kelly brought up that the status of slips can be checked online at any time, but that moorings can not be. He questioned why not have these lists available as well. Mr. Kelly discussed the possibility of delaying the next years placements for individuals that didn't get a slip this year that weren't put in earlier due to the configuration work. Harbormaster Mone stated that he is ok with this. Chairperson Murray said the decision would need to be voted on at another date.

Dave Sincoski, asked if the cost of the slip waitlist process may not be beneficial compared to how the moorings are handled. Harbormaster Mone replied that this system seems to work better than other towns he has seen doing it the same way as Scituate does moorings.

Mike Gibbons, brought up the possibility of taking from lists, with priority being placed on people from this year. Harbormaster Mone shared that the lists don't carry over. Chairperson Murray sees the merit in this but if slips were free all summer due to the reconfiguration, it may be a conversation for next meeting.

Scituate Resident, Mike O'Neil, of 33 Circuit Ave, agreed with Mr. Kelly's point, saying that revenue would be collected for slips anyway. Chairperson Murray responded that they would be in held the same way as if they did get them this year, as prorating was discussed. Harbormaster Mone stated that the Dockwa rentals are still happening to utilize these slips.

It was suggested to consider to separate lists for relocating to a different size boat. Further proposing opening online maybe 30 minutes prior for existing clients. Mr. Sincoski replied that isn't the system currently but agrees it should be done online.

A Scituate Resident, stated that there is no equity in this and feels it ends up being the boaters

with the fastest internet getting to the top of the list. He relayed that he feels the process should be rethought.

A Scituate Resident, asked if slips were available now. Harbormaster Mone replied that there are slips being rented as transients currently while the configuring is going on. This is part of the obligations to the grant from the Seaport Council.

Chairperson Murray suggested calling some of the boaters that haven't utilized their slip yet and get their status.

## **Old Business**

### **A. Maritime Center Parking Lot—Status and Update**

It was agreed that the Maritime Center Parking Lot repairs look good. Harbormaster Mone met with Town Administrator, Jim Boudreau, Brian from Scituate Boats Works, and DWP Director, Kevin Cafferty, to finalize the arrangement. It was agreed that the town will turn the parking lot over to Boat Works, in good condition, October 16, and on May 14 Boat Works will turn it back over to town, in good condition. It was also said that the town will investigate finding an engineering firm to design a solution for the entrance of the parking lot.

### **B. Harbor Wi-Fi—Status and Update**

It was said that the lease is currently with Town Council, being worked out with them. Chairperson Murray will look in to further.

Brad White, of Marshfield Hills, stated that this has been being discussed for far too long. Saying that it is unacceptable in the day we're living. He suggested asking a task force be set up to get this done. Chairperson Murray shared that he agrees with his frustration, but Waterways Commission is not in the position to push. Mr. Gibbons also shared that this has been in the RFP stage for the last six months.

### **C. Comprehensive Dredging Permit**

Harbormaster Mone, shared that the SAP, (Survey Analysis Plan, is in review by the town now, which was sent over by the Woods Hole Group. He stated that once this is approved, it will go back to the Woods Hole Group and be submitted to the US Army Corp and MADEP.

Mr. Kelly asked where we are with the South River Permit. He was told that the Marshfield Town Administrator is looking to go for a permit next round, which would put the project at least two years out.

### **D. Cole Parkway Redevelopment**

Mr. Gibbons, shared that there was not a lot to report; RFP was supposed to go out in July but didn't as they were waiting on some drone footage. It was agreed to move forward with getting RFP to engineering companies. Mr. Gibbons thinks that by the end of August, the RFP will be released.

Chairperson Murray asked what general scope they're considering down there, asking if they're giving serious consideration to the fact that it's a very exposed spot and other places are making effort not to build in areas like this. Mr. Gibbons said addressing raising the sea wall in certain locations, resiliency, and how best to protect these areas.

### **E. Cohasset By-Law Update**

Marshfield Harbormaster, Mike Dimeo updated the commission, that the Town of Cohasset filed a lawsuit with the Town of Scituate, the Division of Marine Fisheries and 3 aqua culturalists regarding issuance of shellfish farming licenses in Cohasset harbor. The lawsuit failed. He shared that the Cohasset Conservation Commission approved three sites with colored buoys marking each location. 16 in total, plots for oyster farming to begin operations. It generally takes

several years to harvest oysters. Each grower has their own color buoy.

## **New Business**

### **A. Dock Box Status**

The commission was looking to hear feedback from the community on this topic, and have a full and fair discussion, with the presumption that there would not be a motion to change the bylaw this evening.

Mr. Sincoski, would like to see the commission bridge the distance with the community. He felt the commission could be more open regarding the process. Chairperson Murray walked the docks with Harbormaster Mone have now that the docks are completed, and both agree that it is a good time to move forward.

Scituate Resident, Mike O'Neil, of 33 Circuit Ave., shared that he doesn't understand the reason and justification behind this and added several thoughts.

Mr. Sincoski suggested adding the option for a bracket to be hooked to slips each year by the Harbormaster for a few instead of individuals screwing them in on their own.

A Scituate Resident shared that his scuba equipment was never screwed in to a dock, and also never moved, but that it is a pain to lug his belongings down with out having a dock box.

Chairperson Murray agreed that this is an inconvenience, and shared that this is a matter of how and if the Waterways Commission can make things work.

Scituate Resident, Timothy White, of 181 Edward Foster Road, shared that he understands that when people were leaving kayaks and such, with a concept of leaving an anchor is technically a fine, but as a commercial fisherman, carrying equipment down early mornings has merit, but needs to be worked out.

Scituate Resident, Eric Preuss, of 59 Gannet Road, asked if he could formally submit to the board for review the US Access Boating Pages, on how to comply with ADA, with ratios and documents.

Harbormaster Mone stated that the town required rebuilding the marina completely ADA compliant, and that all town owned marinas should have the same rules for fairness. Mr. Preuss suggested maybe adding a question regarding disability to the forms for boaters to request a slip that can accommodate these needs. Harbormaster Mone doesn't feel that individuals would include necessary answers.

Scituate Resident, Dan Farrington, of 117 Turner Road, shared that he is at the Cole Parkway Marina, and an advocate of dock boxes, but rather than nothing, maybe the commission could consider a standardized size dock box, instead of a maximized size.

EDC Liaison; Fran McMillen, shared that he rents two slips for his business, and found handicapped stickers on both, asking if this meant they were designated for this purpose. Harbormaster Mone said this is for the larger docks.

Mr. White stated that all slips do not need to be ADA compliant. He also said that without security at the marinas, there is no where for boaters to store personal items that they don't want to lug back and forth.

Harbormaster Mone reminded the boaters that this is ultimately the decision of the Selectboard. He also mentioned samples of fasteners were dropped off to his office and that he planned to take a look at them.

Scituate Resident, John Murphy, suggested asking for bigger deposits from boaters who want the dock box spots.

Another suggestion to send out a survey asking for interest to get an idea of how many boaters out there would like one.

It was also discussed that dock boxes can be successfully hung off the dock six inches.

Mr. Manning stated that one way to make it fair is to charge by the foot and to have boaters pay for the dock based on cubic feet.

Mr. Malvesti suggested looking at spaces, and in to bows, with pulpits hanging over.

Chairperson Murray stated that he will report back at the next meeting after individual discussion with boaters that were present tonight with feedback.

**B. Marina Layout—Boat Relocation Process**

Topic discussed above.

**C. Kayak Racks**

Harbormaster Mone shared that there are still some racks available. Some people were concerned with the rental price.

Mr. Sincoski suggested putting up signage Similar to Marshfield's signs? He will forward pictures of them to Chairperson Murray and Harbormaster Mone.

The possibility of moving one of the racks to another area was discussed, as well as advertising for them more.

**D. Other Arising Issues?**

Mr. Sincoski shared that because of the new pedestal locations for power this year, he sees cords out and has seen people trip. Harbormaster Mone said more pedestals are planned to be put in. It was also agreed upon that the Harbormaster's office will purchase a few more wagons to help with the transferring of boater's items to and from the slips.

**Financial Update**

Mr. Kelly shared the fiscal year just ended five days ago. Currently, projections are the best that he can show, saying we will end up with a surplus, his estimate after FY24 capital would bring retained earnings to approximately \$250,000. Expenses will drop next year due to a long-term lease expiring, and revenue will increase from slip rental and Scituate Boat Works revenues.

**Police Department Update (new standing agenda item)**

Per Scituate Police Chief, this agenda item will be added.

Officer McAuley shared that overall it is starting to ramp up this year. Sharing that there have been a lot of new officers coming on board and have expressed interest in the Marine Unit. Training has been offered and they are currently training more officers for the boats. He also shared that with staffing down, there is a lot of staff taking on multiple rolls, with everyone picking up slack.

**Tentative Remaining Waterways Schedule for 2023**

August, no meeting (as of now)

Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 6:00 pm

Wednesday, October 4, 2023, 6:00 pm

Wednesday, November 1, 2023, 6:00 pm

Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 6:00 pm

**Participants Q&A**

There were no participant questions.

**Chairperson Murray asked for a motion to be made to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m., which was made by Brian Cronin, seconded by Brian Kelly, and voted unanimously in favor (6-0).**