

**TOWN OF SCITUATE, MASSACHUSETTS
WATERWAYS COMMISSION**



**MEETING MINUTES
Waterways Commission
Wednesday, September 6, 2023
6:15 pm
Scituate Maritime Center
117 Edward Foster Road**

Commission Members Present: Chair; Rick Murray, Brian Kelly, Scituate Harbormaster; Stephen Mone, Dave Sincoski, Brian Cronin, Mike Gibbons, Howie Kruetzberg, Dave Haley, Associate Members; T.J. Malvesti and Kevin Norton

Also in Attendance: Brendan McAuley SPD, Marshfield Harbormaster; Mike Dimeo, EDC Liaison; Fran McMillen

Members Not in Attendance: Vice Chair; Dave Dinneen

Chair Murray called the meeting to order at 6:15 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 Mike Gibbons, seconded by Brian Kelly and voted unanimously in favor (8-0).

Chair Murray read a correspondence letter to the group regarding the marina waitlist issues that occurred on 8/1/23. It was explained by Harbormaster Mone that Mooring Information Systems that handles the online signup for the slip list had an IT issue the morning of the signup start. Brian Cronin asked for the reason on what happened and stated that we need a root cause and incident report from Mooring information systems so that we can better understand what happened. There was also some discussion about slip upgrades for marina patrons that were moved due to the new docks at CPM. Harbormaster Mone stated he would send out an email to marina patrons explaining how to request a slip change or upgrade.

Chair Murray asked for a motion to be made to accept the minutes from the July 2023 meeting, but after further discussion it was decided that the minutes needed a lot of corrections and would be best to have this motion wait until the next meeting in October.

Harbormaster Report

A. Seasonal Update

Harbormaster Mone stated although the weather hasn't been great this summer, they have been very busy.

The Harbormasters office recently responded to an overturned barge down the South River.

There was an endangered turtle saved the other week and brought to the New England Aquarium, Vice Chair; Dave Dinneen helped identify and get the turtle transported.

Harbormaster Mone reported that there is only (1) Kayak spot left at the conservation park on the Driftway.

Old Business

A. Maritime Center Parking Lot—Status and Update

Howie Kreutzberg stated the driveway to Maritime Center is still an issue and needs to be addressed. It was stated that the DPW regraded the lot earlier that week as a temporary fix.

Eddie Vachon 294 Old Oaken Bucket Scituate stated that he thought there was a drain possibly buried in the middle of entryway to the lot. The DPW was looking and trying to locate it.

Howie recommended a letter to the Select Board and Chair Murray said he would talk to Maura on status.

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. Fran McMillan EDC liaison said we are only harbor around that doesn't provide Wi-Fi to its patrons and visitors.

C. Comprehensive Dredging Permit

Harbormaster Mone, stated that core samples were taken in the past few weeks.

D. Cole Parkway Redevelopment

Mr. Gibbons, stated that the RFP bid responses were back and being evaluated by the town and members of the Cole Parkway Redevelopment commission. RFP bid responses will be reviewed and graded.

E. Dock Boxes

Chair Murry re-opened the discussion on Marina Dock Boxes and stated Brian Cronin had made some proposed language recommendations if the board will support dock boxes. Brian stated that the proposed language/rules would be for the Marine Park marina and not for the Cole Parkway docks. There was some discussion that dock boxes would need to be individually approved by the HM office for the marine park and done so annually. Some additional language was going to be worked on by Brian Cronin for discussion at next meeting.

New Business

A. Chair Position annual vote

Chair Murray initiated a discussion about the need for annual vote for Commission Chair position. Rick stated that he had some discussions with member Dave Dinneen and Dave was interested in becoming the new Chair. **A motion was made by Howie Kreutzberg to vote on Dave Dinneen for Chair. seconded by Brian Kelly and voted unanimously in favor (8-0).**

B. Harbormaster Building replacement, feasibility, design, engineering and permitting grant application

Harbormaster Mone told the group that he was working on plans to look at the feasibility of replacing the existing Harbormaster building. It was stated that the Town Administrator Jim Boudreau requested that Stephen look into this option. Stephen mentioned that 80K dollars was allocated to be used as the towns match on the engineering services to review options for

renovation or replacement. The Commission was concerned about the financial impacts of a new building and how the debt service would affect the annual budget. It was also stated by Howie Kruetzberg that a new building was nowhere on the 5-year Capital Plan and that we need to focus on what priorities we have already established. Brian Cronin stated that he feels renovation may be a better option than going all new. Brian Kelly stated that our first priority is to make sure we fund the current dredge projects. Brad White, 149 Old Main Street Marshfield stated the Marshfield new Harbormaster building was 3.1 million to build and 2.1 million came from a State grant. Rick Murray proposed that we have a special Waterways meeting in advance of our next scheduled meeting to fully discuss the proposed new building. Rick Murray said he would look to get a copy of the Towns building commission report on buildings to see what is said about the HM building.

Financial Update

Brian Kelly reviewed some numbers on the impacts to the debt service and stated more information would be needed regarding engineering and building costs to better understand the financial impacts of a new building or renovation.

Police Department Update

Officer Brendan McAuley stated that due to the Police Reform Bill there has been some impacts to how they can staff the Police boats. It was tough to staff both boats but a lot of training was done this year to bring other SPD officers onto the boats. Mr. McAuley mentioned that overall, they had less incidents than 2022. The new police boat was put in the water for a Sea Trial and they expect to take delivery in October. The old police boat, MP1 SafeBoat was sold to Quincy.

Participants Q&A

Brad White 149 Old Main Street, Marshfield told the group that Green Harbor is being dredged this fall/winter

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m., which was made by Brian Kelly, seconded by Rick Murray, and voted unanimously in favor (7-0). (Dave Haley needed to leave early therefore 7-0 vs 8-0)