



MEETING MINUTES
Waterways Commission Meeting
Tuesday July 11, 2017
Scituate Maritime Center
119 Edward Foster Rd.
7:00 pm

Commission Members in Attendance: Fran McMillen, Brian Cronin, Brian Kelly, Keith Walo, Michael Gibbons, David Friedman, Michael Lorusso

Commission Members Absent: David Glancy, Stephen Mone

Also in Attendance: Jack Wiggins (Director of Urban Harbors Institute)

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Fran McMillen.

Acceptance of Agenda

Move that the Waterways Commission approve the agenda for July 11, 2017 meeting.

Motion by David Friedman Second by Brian Cronin Unanimous Vote (7-0)

Acceptance of Minutes

Move that the Waterways Commission approve the meeting minutes for June 7, 2017 meeting. Motion by Michael Lorusso Second by Brian Cronin Unanimous Vote (7-0)

Opening Remarks:

Fran McMillen opened up the meeting by saying that the Harbormaster is at Town Hall for the Board of Selectman meeting. The electrical system will meet with H.M. and they hope to know who the engineer will be for the piling project by next week. 56 moorings have been assigned according to Michael Bearce. David Friedman reported that a friend came up on the list and was pressured to make a decision one way or the other, which was good. David would like more information on how the “declines” are being documented for future purposes, maybe there’s a more efficient process. Brian Kelly suggested maybe Michael Bearce could come into a future WWC meeting to explain his process. Keith asked why the WWC isn’t being communicated to by the Harbormaster regarding information, for example the piling project engineering contract being presented at the Board of Selectman meeting. Michael Lorusso said that this particular WWC was pushed out from its regular scheduled time and Mone was already going to the Board meeting ahead of this meeting. Brian Cronin suggested that Commission members create bullet point ideas to bring up to the Harbormaster prior to the meeting so he can update everyone at the meeting. Michael Gibbons also suggested that he would talk to Stephen Mone.

Old Business:

Harbor Study: Brian Kelly introduced Jack Wiggins from Urban Harbors Institute. Brian Kelly and Brian Cronin had a conference call with Jack a few days ago. Jack explained Urban Harbors Institute. It has been in existence since 1989. They manage planning and management of marinas, harbor planning. MA has had harbor planning opportunity for 25 years or so. It has a lot to do with Chapter 91 licensing. DEP was looking for a way for the community to be helping them make their decisions. Jack said Scituate is an example of not having a lot of Chapter 91 issues. But there are other issues: recreational boating, commercial fishing, natural resources which municipality would focus on. Scituate has a plan which Jack said is a solid plan. Some years have passed since it was created. He did look at the existing plan which was created in 2011. He said it tracks very similar to Provincetown's harbor plan. He would start with looking at it, does the plan have any day to day meaning? It would help with grant opportunities which was a question raised by Brian and Brian. Fran asked Jack about guidance for updating the current plan. Jack suggested that looking at the complexity of the plan and if anything has Chapter 91 issues then he would recommend having someone come in that knows what they're working with. He said most people on the committees that he works with are capable of knowledge but its more time that would be required to spend on the project. Fran said the Town would be looking at dredging and future jetty repairs (future grants). Michael Lorusso said that the Committee is looking more for planning than reacting. He also said that he thinks it would be best to have a professional aid in the updating. Jack Wiggins said it would take around a year for an update, typically. He said that the community input would create that time frame more or less. Jack said 10 years is a realistic time frame to have a plan before the next update. Jack thinks that Scituate's current plan is not going to impede on any grants being given. Fran asked about state approved harbor plans. Jack said it's more for Chapter 91 issues and it's not required to be state approved. It is optional. Fran asked about projected costs for updating the plan. Brian Kelly said it's similar to Provincetown's harbor plan. Jack said they are updating Provincetown's for \$29,000. Michael Lorusso asked about lead time. Jack said it depends on the situation. It is a public agency which would not require a bid. Michael Gibbons asked about the process of an update. Jack said it's pretty much the same as doing a full plan. The public would be brought in to assist in aiming at issues that would like to be addressed. The goal is to implement the harbor plan. Brian Kelly asked about upgrading docks and would it be done through grants. Jack said yes because it is publicly owned. Brian stated that it is in the Capital Plan. David Dauphinee said that he reminded everyone that the Town has more waterways other than the harbor which people should keep in mind. He also brought up a point about commercial fishing boats being bigger and drawing more water which would be a factor in the waterways. Jack said there's value in engaging about having a plan. Michael Lorusso said it was reasonable with the time frame and potential cost. David Friedman would like to see a page of bullet pointed recommendations that would be relevant. Brian Cronin said you really need to think about the next 10 years. Michael Lorusso said we can remove things that have been completed such as the Town Pier and the State Ramp. Brian Cronin said there's a lot of things that can be achieved.

South River Dredging Update: Brian Cronin said he got a brief update from Nancy Durfee. They are awaiting on determination from two sand samples from DEP. David Friedman asked about the Air Force taking material. Michael Lorusso said they will not be assisting. Fran heard that Air Force may be moving out. Brian Cronin said that they have major erosion and are probably questioning if it's worth repairing. David Dauphinee said it's all going into the river. Brian said that if they aren't going to maintain it then perhaps it should be returned back to the Town. David Friedman asked about easements. Michael Gibbons thought there were enough easements but it would be better if they had more so that the spoils would be spread evenly.

New Business: Michael Lorusso said they had a boat sink at his marina (Herring River Marina). He found the boat at 9:20pm and it was hauled a few hours later. He wanted to thank Sea Tow and Michael McDonough for getting the boat removed. The Harbormaster was notified due to pollution control.

Brian Cronin wanted to add something about patrols on the river. He has put in a call to Mike Dimeo to find out why they aren't patrolling as much as they have in the past. Stephen Mone said they have a boat down by Damon's Point and Brian requested patrolling on the South River for safety of kayakers for example. David Dauphinee also said he is seeing increased speed and less patrol from his property on the North River. Michael McDonough said he's been seeing Coast Guard in the South River/Spit area. Brian said there could be new boaters that aren't familiar with the rules. There was discussion on speed limit buoys. Fran said that the shark buoys were getting a lot of attention. He would bring it up to Stephen Mone.

Michael McDonough asked about access to the Driftway boat launch. He said it's a tough layout. Michael Gibbons said they don't want people launching anything more than 12'. The access could be a better quality access. Michael Lorusso said the Scituate Police towed a bunch of trailers that were parked in the grass illegally. There was discussion about that area being a safe zone for someone to access rather than Roht that could have a strong tide/current.

Adjournment

There being no other business a motion was made by Fran McMillen to adjourn at 8:27pm second by Brian Cronin Unanimous Vote (7-0).

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelli Rodgers
Recording Secretary