

**MINUTES
TOWN OF HARWICH
WATERWAYS COMMITTEE
Harwich Channel Studio
Community Center
100 Oak Street, Harwich, MA
Wednesday, 19th November, 2025, 6:00 PM**

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Dan Hall, Chair, Roger Peterson, Vice Chair, Rich Shevory and Kent Drushella

MEMBERS NOT PARTICIPATING: Dan Casey and Larry Brutti

ALSO PARTICIPATING: Stephanie Ridenour, Director of Natural Resources and John Harker, Harbormaster

ATTENDANCE AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Mr. Hall called the meeting of the Harwich Waterways Committee to order on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at 6:05PM. He invited all attendees to introduce themselves for the record.

MINUTES: October 15th, 2025 Review & Approval

Mr. Drushella moved to approve the Minutes of October 15th, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Shevory.

Vote: 4:0 in favor. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: None

OPEN FORUM:

Mr. Harker noted that, compared to last year's revenue, everything is on track.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Natural Resources request for letters of support for CPC projects: Water Quality, Hinckleys Pond, and Shellfish LabMs. Ridenour noted that both the Natural Resources Department and Conservation Department have a couple of applications in for CPC projects. She explained and summarized the application pertaining to Hinkley's Pond noting that the goal is to have a diagnostic assessment done and to get a list of alternatives for management measures. Ms. Ridenour requested a letter of support for that application. Ms. Ridenour continued with an explanation of a request for water quality equipment replacement. She gave a summary and explanation of the second request which is from the Natural Resources Department for updates to

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the shellfish lab as well as educational enhancement. Ms. Ridenour requested a letter of support for that application.

John Harker noted that he fully supports the requests by Natural Resources and Conservation.

Mr. Drushella moved to draft a letter to support the three asks from the Department of Natural Resources from the Waterways Committee stating that the Committee 100% supports their ask for CPC funds. Seconded by Mr. Shevory.

Vote: 4:0 in favor. Motion carried.

2. 11 River Bend Road- dock relocation

Charlie Agro of BSC Group was present on behalf of the applicant, Jeff Lang. He described the project in detail and had a plan for the Committee members to see. He explained the project in detail. He noted that the dredging was recommended by Amy Usowski, Conservation Director.

Mr. Harker referred to upland disposal and loading a barge noting that he would be drafting restrictions including the time of year the construction and dredging can be done as well as coordinate for reconstruction.

Mr. Hall noted that the Committee had no problem with the dock being moved, it is within setbacks.

Mr. Drushella moved to approve the plan pursuant to the Harbormaster's conditions about the pre-construction meeting and time of year restrictions to the dredging. Seconded by Mr. Shevory.

Vote: 4:0 in favor. Motion carried.

Committee members signed two copies of the plan.

3. 19 Walkerwoods Road- seasonal freshwater dock and swim platform mooring

Stephan Sequin, an engineer with Ryder and Wilcox was present and representing the applicants John and Debbie Duarte. She gave a summary of what the applicants have done on the property to this date and what they are requesting. She showed the proposed dock on a plan which she described in detail. She noted that it is not a final plan, it has not been filed with Conservation and she is asking for feedback from the Committee. Ms. Sequin also commented that the applicants would like to eliminate the two L sections at the end.

Mr. Harker noted that he had no navigational concerns. Eliminating the two L sections would be for the Conservation Department to consider.

Mr. Hall confirmed that, other than feedback from the Committee, no action was requested by the applicants.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Review of freshwater pond boat rinsing regulations and implementation of revision within Harbor Management Plan. Ms. Ridenour explained that, before the Committee, was a redline draft to show what is being replaced and explained the various changes in language to the Harbor Management Plan. She also gave an update that no comments have been received on the proposed changes.

Mr. Peterson confirmed that the Plan is for all ramps in town.

Mr. Peterson moved to accept the revised Harbor Management Plan. Seconded by Mr. Drushella.

Vote: 4:0 in favor. Motion carried.

2. 37 Nons Road- revised plans for dock construction and dredging. Mark of Cape Cod Engineering was present and representing the applicant. He explained the information on the two Plans before the Committee to be used as a comparison. He described the changes that have been made and why as well as his efforts to communicate with neighbors. He read a letter from Ben Stevens, that had been sent to the Waterways Committee and noted feedback from other neighbors as well. He continued with a detailed description of the proposed plan noting that no impacts on shellfish are anticipated.

Mr. Harker commented on the channel width regulations and the need to adhere to the regulations as much as possible. He emphasized that he does not think this part of the channel is safe and property ownership on water does not automatically mean dockage. Mr. Harker noted that he still has concerns which he explained in detail.

Mr. Hall expressed his concerns regarding the plan.

Mark responded to Mr. Hall's concerns with a description of prior actions taken in the channel, the regulations and the intent to not lessen the width of the channel.

Mr. Harker noted that the channel had not been dredged more than 30 feet and interprets that as meaning that that was the viable width of the channel.

Mark noted his correspondence to the Department of Marine Fisheries (DMF) and expressed his frustration with their responses.

Ms. Ridenour requested an updated response from the DMF as she still has concerns regarding the shellfish and habitat loss. She noted for the record that that is an area the DNR maintains as a nursery and it has been seeded. Ms. Ridenour also asked for clarification on the 3x3x3 plot for a shellfish survey. She also questioned a survey for 41 Nons Road, asking if they used a seed rake and explained her concerns.

Mark responded to the questions regarding the surveys, explained the variables and described it as a relative comparison.

Ms. Ridenour noted that she would use DMF's guidelines for aquaculture surveys. She explained why she feels the plan is disruptive to the shellfish nursery in that area. Ms. Ridenour also commented on the cubic yards for dredging and the 100 yard threshold and noting that the project should keep within a standard for permitting reasons.

Mr. Drushella asked questions regarding the dredging and pulling the platform in which Mark answered. Mr. Drushella noted that not being able to pull the dock in affirms the Harbormaster's concerns of navigational hazards. He suggested that the applicant get the other permits and everything they need and then come back to the Waterways Committee.

Mark described the licensing and permitting process moving forward and explained why he goes to Waterways first.

Mr. Hall asked if this plan is encroaching and if it impedes navigation.

Mr. Harker replied that after going to the area he has determined that the plan is encroaching on the area and he explained his evaluation of the risk.

Mark responded with his interpretation of the regulation.

Members discussed the size of the boat and the option for the widening of the channel to be privately funded.

Mark responded that they will inquire about the possibility of privately funding widening the channel.

Mr. Weaver, a resident of the area, was in the audience and commented that if they dredge, it would fill in again. He explained that they have paid for 2 dredges in 18 years without 100% participation. He described the situation in the channel at various tides and commented that he does not see how this plan could work.

Mr. Drushella made a motion to not support plan #4188-06 dated 10/09/25 as presented because of questionable encroachment on the By-laws of the 50 foot channel as well as comments made by the Harbormaster and the Natural Resource Officer, based on their input as well as what the Committee members can see. Seconded by Mr. Shevory.

Vote: 4:0 in favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDANCE:

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday December 17th , 2025

ADJOURNMENT:

November 19, 2025

Mr. Drushella moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Peterson

Vote: 4:0 in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:47PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judi Moldstad
Board Secretary

Don Hen *ew chair*
1/20/26