

**AGENDA
TOWN OF HARWICH
WATERWAYS COMMITTEE
Harwich Channel Studio
Community Center
100 Oak Street
Wednesday, April 16th, 2025, 6:00 PM**

Attendance and Introductions: Members of the Committee and guests introduced themselves for the record.

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Dan Hall, Chair, Dan Casey, Larry Brutti, Kent Drushella, and Roger Peterson

ALSO PARTICIPATING: John Harker, Harbormaster and Bill Neiser, Deputy Harbormaster, Bill Neiser, Deputy Harbormaster, John Our, Mark Burgess and Suzanne Lake

MINUTES: March 19th, 2025 Review & Approval

Mr. Hall postponed the vote on the Minutes of March 19, 2025 until the May meeting to give members time to review them.

Mr. Hall moved to postpone the vote on the Minutes of March 19, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Drushella.

Vote: 5:0 in favor, Motion carried,

CONSENT AGENDA: None

OPEN FORUM:

FINANCIAL REPORT: March, 2025

Mr. Harker noted that there is still fluctuation in the electric bills. Everything else is average for April.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Big 3 Wychmere Town Pier Usage Request

Mr. Harker noted that this request was received on March 10th. The request is for the tuna tournament, July 10th and 11th. He described the requested use of the pier in detail.

Mr. Our described the need for the additional pier and how they would handle the vessels as they come in. His hope is that the tuna buyer's truck would be at the pier to avoid having to put the tuna back in the vessel to go to a different pier for unloading.

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Mr. Harker recommended requiring the \$120 fee for the T-permit.

Mr. Our offered to pay a fee to cover the T-permits for the tournament.

Committee member discussed the tournament and options of how the fees could be paid. They considered a total fee of \$500.00.

Mr. Drushella noted that the Waterways Committee can make a recommendation but they do not have the authority to waive or change fees. He commented that this issue may have to go before the Select Board.

Mr. Harker suggested that the conversation be continued to the next meeting and he will get more information regarding the permitting and fees.

Mr. Peterson suggested calling it a special event fee rather than a daily fee.

Mr. Brutti moved to accept \$500.00 special event fee for the Big 3 Fishing Tournament on July 10 and 11 pending approval by the Harbormaster. Seconded by Mr. Peterson.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried.

2. PBCB Special Purpose Mooring Request

Mr. Peterson recused himself from the discussion.

Mr. Harker described the Pleasant Bay Community Boating and noted that it qualifies for a special purpose mooring. He described the request in detail.

Suzanne Lake gave a description of how the program is run and what she anticipates for this summer. She noted that this addition would max out the program.

Mr. Harker noted that if approved, it would be an edit to the Harbor Management Plan and would have to go before the Select Board.

Mr. Drushella moved to recommend to allow for an additional four mornings to the existing mooring field as presented on the plan for PBCB. Seconded by Mr Brutti.

Vote: 4:0:1 in favor with Mr. Peterson abstained. Motion carried.

3. 9 Stanley Road Proposed Reconstruction Seasonal Dock (Hinckley's Pond)

Mark Burgess of Shorefront Consulting gave a description of the present dock and a description of the proposed dock and deck. He also described the area and the options of how the project would be done.

Mr. Harker noted that there are no concerns of hazard and navigation with the proposed project.

Committee members asked questions which Mr. Burgess answered.

Mr. Drushella moved to accept the plan as submitted on April 16, 2025 Project Number SC249 dated 12/19/24 by Shortfront Consulting. Seconded by Mr. Peterson.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried.

Mr. Burgess gave his full sized copy of the plan for the Committee members to sign.

4. 37 Nons Road, Proposed Pier, Ramp, and Float in Oyster Creek

Mr. Burgess described the proposed pier, ramp and float in detail, noting locations and materials that will be used. He noted the potential options for the deck and why he chose the location he described. He explained why he did not think a variance was necessary.

Mr. Harker responded with his concerns, noting that there are 14 potential additional docks and vessels in that area. He considers that a hazard to navigation. It is also not within the Harbor Management Plan. Mr. Harker noted that he and Mr. Yannuzzi had gone to the harbor at low tide and commented that the dee channel is very narrow. Both he and Mr. Yannuzzi agreed that this would not be a safe structure within that channel and explained their reasons in detail.

Mr. Burgess responded that they are dredging to 3', to meet the existing deep water channel. He also noted that they are dredging a parking space. He stated that he will be requesting a variance from Conservation. The noted that the dredging will be done between November and January 15th in order to utilize the ramp. He noted that the Committee had asked for specific dredging dates on another plan and he adapted this plan accordingly.

Mr. Harker distributed the recommendations from the Department of Natural Resources Officer. He read the key points and noted that Mr Yannuzzi's recommendation was that the project not be approved. Mr. Harker read the reasons for that recommendation.

Mr. Hall noted that he had also gone to the location and commented that the channel is tight.

Mr. Burgess responded that the shellfish survey has to be filed with a Notice of Intent, which hasn't been filed yet. He also noted that he had submitted it to the Waterways Committee when Heinz was there and all was good at that time.

Mr. Harker noted that with the choke point, the proposed water dependent structure, plus a boat on the dock and a severely restricted channel, this plan is, in his opinion, a hazard to navigation.

Mr. Burgess noted that the Harbormaster could, at his discretion, limit the size of the vessels. He noted that the float is way inside the existing channel. He showed where one boat projects into the deep water channel.

Mr. Harker commented that it's still under 50 ', which is the line for him.

Mr. Drushella noted that the Committee has recommendations from the Harbormaster and the Shellfish Warden not to support the plan as drawn. He asked if it could be pulled in a bit.

Mr. Burgess explained what intertidal dredging is and that it changes one resource area from coastal beach to land under ocean. He noted that regarding shellfish, \$6,000 is paid to the town before construction which goes into a special fund that can only be used for shellfish propagation. He noted that it would successfully seed 105,000 square feet.

Mr. Harker noted that any shellfish survey must be submitted directed to Mr. Yannuzzi for formal review and validation prior to any permitting considerations. Mr. Harker commented that he was not aware of that and this plan did not get to Mr. Yannuzzi prior to this meeting. He also noted that although they are aware of the \$6,000 option, it is not a practice that they want done within the shellfish propagation sites.

Mr. Hall asked if putting a dock in that location was possible.

Mr. Harker noted that there was 50 feet in the plan.

Mr. Burgess explained the restriction of a 50 feet wide channel and noted that this is presently 38 feet. He also noted the depth of 6 feet.

Mr. Harker summarized the reasons for the recommendations to not support this plan as presented

Mr. Drushella moved that the Waterways Committee recommendation is for Mr. Burgess to reevaluate the plan to meet the 50 foot wide requirement of the Harbor Management Plan. Seconded by Mr. Brutti.

Vote: 4:1 with Mr. Peterson voting against.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. 31 Mill Road, Proposed Reconstruction of Existing Pier with Maintenance Dredging in Saquatucket Harbor

Mr. Burgess explained the proposed reconstruction and noted that it is not planned at this time. He explained the need for the reconstruction of the existing pier and the plans for dredging. Mr. Burgess noted that he will be bringing the plan to Conservation before he makes further changes. Regarding the issue of getting rid of the material, Mr. Burgess explained that he would plan on

some time between November and January 13th. They would schedule the dredging to be able to access the public boat ramp.

Mr. Harker asked if there would be a multiple dredge project and how he determined that 99 yards was the perfect number.

Mr. Burgess replied that the permit would allow them to go back. He chose 99 because it's under 100. He noted that the initial focus of the project was the dredging to get the owners back to their approved permitted dredge depth.

Mr. Harker noted that the recommendation from the Harbormaster's Office is to not have any use of public access ramps for any type of dredge spoiling off load, noting and reading 320CMR. He also noted the time and use of the public ramp and that the ramp was not designed to support dredge spoil offload. He added that that would be for the previous project also.

Committee members, Mr. Harker and Mr. Neiser discussed options to off load dredge spoils other than using the ramp. They asked questions and expressed concerns which Mr. Burgess addressed.

Mr. Hall commented that there are no issues with the project. The concern is how to get rid of the spoils. He asked that Mr. Burgess come back to them with more detail on how it would be offloaded.

Mr. Drushella suggested they vote to recommend the project. The other issues will be dealt with by the Harbormaster and Conservation.

Mr. Drushella moved to accept the project as drawn out on plan #217 with the contingency that the Harbormaster and the applicant arrive at an agreeable offloading site and process to get the project accomplished, that does not include the use of the boat ramp. Seconded by Mr. Peterson.

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDANCE:

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday May 21st, 2025

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Vote: 5:0 in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Judi Moldstad
Board Secretary

Daniel Her
Dan Her 6/18/25

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