

Town of Barnstable

Waterways Committee

1189 Phinney's Lane, Centerville MA 02632

www.town.barnstable.ma.us

Waterways Workshop

A Waterways Committee Workshop to discuss *Dinghy Regulations for Town Way to Water* was held on November 18, 2014 at the Selectmen's Conference Room, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Chairman Jack Meade.

Roll Call:

- Board Members present: Robert Hazelton, Paul Everson, Peter Cross, and Chairman Jack Meade.
- Board Members absent: Frederick Komenda
- Staff: Dan Horn, Harbormaster and Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem.
- Public: Jessica Rapp Grasseti, Town Council President, Rich Boden, Cotuit-Santuit Civic Association President, Mike Scanlon, and Lynne Poyant, Director Community Services Dept.

Chairman Jack Meade reported this workshop was to discuss in-season boat storage on Town property. The Waterways Committee and Harbormaster Staff have been discussing this issue for quite some time. Town Council and Town Conservation Commission have also been discussing this same issue.

Harbormaster Dan Horn distributed the draft proposal. (See attachment #1). These amendments will be added to the existing ordinance. These are the additions:

Purpose:

To establish a regulation in order to effectively utilize the Town's Ways to Water by controlling the size and types of vessels placed upon these ways. This regulation also limits the timeframe in which vessels will be permitted to remain in the areas, requiring annual removal.

Definitions:

***Vessel:* For the purpose of this regulation, a vessel is every description of watercraft used or capable of being used as a means of transportation upon the water.**

***Structure:* Structure means any man-made object which is intended to remain in place in, on, over, or under the tidelands or other waterways and would require a local permit from the Town's Conservation Commission and/or a Ch.91 permit. Structures may include any anchoring system that is put in place by the altering, digging, and/or burying something into the grounds/shores of the Town.**

Regulation of vessels on Town ways to water, landings and beaches.

- Only non-motorized vessels may be placed on posted Town Ways to Water and landings between April 16 and November 14 of each calendar year.**
- No vessel greater than 12 feet in length overall may be placed on any Town Way to Water.**
- Vessels may only be placed so as not to cause damage to the Town property and environment. No structure may be erected or placed without prior authorization from the Town of Barnstable.**
- All vessels stored along the shores of town-owned property shall either display a decal issued by the Harbormaster, or by other means, that clearly indicates ownership and contact information of the watercraft.**
- The Town of Barnstable assumes no responsibility for the loss and/or damage to any vessel placed on Town property. Any vessel so placed on a Town Way to Water is at the owner's risk and responsibility and any liability incurred therefore shall be at the owner's expense.**

There was a discussion among the Committee Members. These are some highlights:

- Other towns are looking for regulations for dinghy storage. Some using a rack system which would not work in most areas of our town.
- No structures will be allowed.
- Dinghies need to be properly identified. Should the permanent mooring number be used on the dinghy? Problem is not everyone with a mooring has a dinghy and also some have dinghies but no mooring.
- Should there be a fee associated?
- Can a notice be sent out with the mooring renewals?
- Town is starting with salt water "posted" Town Ways to Water.
- Ropes Beach, Cotuit, is the first area they will look at for this storage.

- A typical rack system would only work in a limited number of areas in Town. Perhaps a “low rack system” or a “hitching post” delineating the area could be used.
- There are currently no funds in place to help with in-season storage – only off-season [non]compliance.
- What about hobie cats and sunfish sail boats or kayaks that are over 12 feet? Dan Horn stressed no vessels greater than 12 feet will be allowed and there will be “no grandfathering.”
- Should there also be a beam restriction? Please add no vessel greater than 5 feet in beam to this draft regulation.
- There is a monetary fine built into this regulation in the Town’ Ordinances.
- How can we get the most people on the water and still respect our natural resources?
- This should not be a socioeconomic issue – it should be a safety issue.

The public commented on this draft proposal

- Rich Boden was pleased with the draft regulation. The Cotuit-Santuit Civic Association sends out a monthly newsletter and he will include this information in a future newsletter. He also asked about vessels over 12 feet that have been there summer after summer. Dan Horn repeated that there will be no grandfathering. Some boaters may not like this new rule but he can’t/won’t make exceptions.
- Mike Scanlon also indicated that there are more vessels than space. He agrees there should be size limitation. He thinks people should be assigned a specific location.
- Jessica Rapp Grasseti thanked the committee for their efforts. She is glad structures are not going to be allowed on the beaches for safety reasons. There is only a limited number of feet of beach and may have to limit vessels. Mooring holders should not be the only people to have access to the water. Will this be a resident/non resident issue? Could you consider a seasonal pier being put in the water to help with launching and water storage (similar to Mosquito Yacht Club)?

Dan Horn reported he will add the suggestion of the beam restriction to this draft regulation. The next step is for the Waterways Committee to review this again at their November 25th meeting and vote to move the proposal forward. Then this regulation will be sent to the Legal Department for their review. After that it will be sent to the Town Manager. If the Committee has any other comments, they should email them to Dan Horn within the next few days.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Lavoie, Secretary Pro Tem