

**Town of Barnstable
Waterways Committee**
1189 Phinney's Lane, Centerville MA 02632
www.town.barnstable.ma.us

**Waterways Workshop
April 20, 2021**

I. Call to Order:

Waterways Committee Workshop to discuss creating minimum size requirements for mooring fields and to discuss Wait List lotteries. The Waterways Workshop was held on April 20, 2021 via Zoom at 7:07 PM.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Chairman John Meade who read at the beginning of the meeting:

NOTICE OF RECORDING *"Please note that tonight's meeting is recorded and broadcast on Channel 18 and, in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, s. 20, I must inquire whether anyone is taping this meeting and to please make their presence known."*

Roll Call:

Board Members present: Peter Cross, Robert Hazelton, Paul Everson and Chairman John Meade

Board Members absent: Frederick Komenda

Staff: Jay Horn, Deputy Harbormaster/Mooring Officer, Brian Taylor, Harbormaster and Pam Swider-Cohen, Division Assistant

Town Counsel Liaison present: Paul Neary 7:17 pm

Public: None

II. Workshop:

Chairman Meade reported this workshop is to discuss Mooring Guidelines for minimum size of vessels and Mooring Wait List lotteries.

1. Kayaks and dinghies registered to Moorings; Minimum Size Requirements for Mooring Fields (Guidelines or Regulations?)

A workshop style discussion was held to share ideas for which direction the Town can better manage the use of moorings. There are a significant number of small vessels permitted to the same moorings each year. A change in guidelines or regulations would limit this practice of place holder vessels tying up moorings. With the significant wait times for people on the waiting lists, this would help better utilize the moorings. It would also result in the probability of people who don't intend to use the mooring to do the right thing and give it up. The Town has a Small Vessel Storage Program set up for vessels no greater than 12 feet. Horn shared his findings of the other Towns and their size minimums for moorings. Some towns do not allow kayaks or dinghies, but Yarmouth does allow kayaks to be moored.

Horn stated the use of a kayak or tender does aid in the process of moving someone off the very long wait lists. The current regulations allow a vessel to be permitted regardless of size. The request is to change this to be a temporary allowance for the plan to purchase a boat that does not fit into the small vessel storage program. In trying to get 100% usage of the moorings in our waters, this direction would help to let people on the wait list know what the expectations are. To start off as guidelines to work out the bugs is the consensus of the committee rather than jumping right into regulations.

Horn and Taylor plan to work on guidelines to be presented to the Committee at the next Waterways Committee meeting on May 25, 2021.

Off topic, Horn asked what is the minimum age that a person could be offered a mooring? Horn started in offering moorings, he has come upon an eleven year old which leads to the next item.

2. Wait Lists: Lotteries to add names to closed Wait Lists

(a.) Discuss options for people who pass when offered a Mooring from a Wait List

Offering of moorings from the waitlist started on March 1, 2021. Over 300 people have been contacted to offer them a mooring. Currently 70 people have been moved off the wait lists. There are still 50 - 60 vacant moorings some of which are for non-designated areas. During this process, Horn has gone against his inclination and yes, he has permitted a few kayaks to get people off the wait list. It is a useful option to allow a newly permitted person to acquire a vessel appropriate for the mooring.

With no minimum age, a few 11 year olds have come up on this list. One of which grew up in a boat on the water as his father is a mariner and the boy has taken his boating safety course. The location is a protected mooring location. The other 11 year old has no experience and has not taken the boating safety course. The mooring location was a very dynamic location.

Currently many of the wait lists have very few people on them, for example Fish Hills currently has two names and Prince Cove has five. Hyannis and Lewis Bay have over 200 names on the list. Should we open the lists, but cap it off at a set number? Currently a lottery needs to occur to add names to waitlists, and perhaps moving forward the regulations could be amended and to leave the wait lists open. The staff is looking into an online lottery as an option. There are many wait lists that need names added, this would be a large undertaking to use the "draw a name from a hat" system used in the past.

Using the current program of Mooring Info tracking of the offers of moorings is more streamlined. There is the potential for implementing a one strike rule and you fall to the back of the list. The options were discussed and members are in consensus and will look forward to seeing the proposal the Harbormaster's Staff put forward.

III. Matters Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair: None

IV. Adjournment:

Meade states there is no further business, Cross moved for adjournment which was seconded by Everson all members present agreed. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Swider-Cohen, Department Assistant