

Town of Barnstable

Waterways Committee

1189 Phinney's Lane, Centerville MA 02632

www.townofbarnstable.us

Waterways Committee Meeting Minutes May 20, 2025

A meeting of the Town of Barnstable Waterways Committee was held via Zoom as approved by the Town Manager with the Committee's approval.

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Paul Everson. The quorum was confirmed and Paul Everson read the following notice at the beginning of the meeting. NOTICE OF RECORDING "Please note that tonight's meeting is recorded and broadcast on Town of Barnstable's Government Access Channel and Website, 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:

Paul Everson, Chairman
Gary Shramek
Greg Egan
Todd Walantis

Board Members absent:

Jacob Angelo

Town Staff Present:

Jay Horn, Deputy Harbormaster (DHM)
Polina Plucinski, MEA Administrative Assistant

Public:

Jose Picardo (Green Environmental), Jimmy Hill, John Field, Kyle Pedicini, Zen Mierzwa, Jake Dewey, Matt Sylvia, Ann Kirby, Fran Elliot, Josh Rand.

II. Act on Minutes/Notes:

Paul Everson entertained a motion to accept the minutes from April 22nd, 2025, and May 6th, 2025 as written. Greg Egan made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Gary Shramek – second. All in favor.

III. Notices of Intent (NOI):

1. 10 Year Comprehensive Dredging and Beach Nourishment Project.

Griffin Beaudoin – Town Engineer DPW; Jimmy Hill – Coastal Engineer, Ports & Harbors.

Jimmy Hill, the Coastal Engineer, Ports & Harbors, presented the 10-year Comprehensive Dredging and Beach Nourishment project. The project will cover Barnstable Harbor, Three Bays, and a Centerville Bay region. This permit would allow the town to officially and effectively carry out dredging as needed throughout the town on a 10-year basis. Thorough historic research has been done regarding the matter.

Chairman Everson had some concerns about emergency dredging. Mr. Hill explained that there are no obstacles for emergency dredging.

Greg Egan spoke about getting more information on this project.

Deputy Harbormaster Horn had concerns about the size of the file for this project. It has been hard to access due to its size. Requesting a hard copy to be brought to the MEA and come up with the solution for public to access.

Paul Everson then proposed a vote for this project to the committee.

Greg Egan – in favor
Todd Walantis – in favor
Gary Shramek – in favor
Paul J. Everson – in favor
All in favor.

2. Hawes Avenue Culvert Repair Project, 11 Hawes Avenue, Barnstable, Massachusetts.

The Town of Barnstable proposes repairing an existing culvert beneath Hawes Avenue to correct structural deficiencies and prevent further deterioration or potential failure of the crossing or roadway. A damaged portion of the reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) will be replaced in-kind, along with the mill and overlay of Hawes Avenue. Refer to the Project Narrative for further details.

Matt Sylvia (Tighe & Bond) spoke on behalf of the Town of Barnstable to introduce the project. As stated above, the project will take place at 11 Hawes Avenue, Barnstable, MA. This project was designed to prevent further deterioration and failure of the roadway, replace the 183-foot pipe, and restore wetland. Construction is anticipated to start in late fall (2025). Mr. Sylvia also stated that this project is a necessity for public safety.

Paul J. Everson – entertained the motion to approve the project.

Todd Walantis – motion to approve.

Gary Shramek – second.

All in favor.

3. 251 Green Dunes Drive, Hyannis, MA 02601. Proposed project: Dock and float (this matter was previously discussed on 04/22/2025).

It was brought to the applicant's attention that the intention of using a motorized Vessel was not clear and that the applicant needs to go back to the committee to make the clarification. The applicant provided a revised plan in response to comments from the Conservation Agent.

The applicant Zen Mierzwa, represented by Jose Pichardo of Greenseal Environmental, clarified that while the project was previously approved for a small motorized dinghy, the revised plans now indicate the use of a larger 34-foot vessel. This change was justified by a post-meeting report deeming the area unsuitable for shellfish, thereby requiring only one-foot separation from the bottom instead of 36 inches. Despite the applicant's assurance that all dimensions and environmental regulations remain compliant, committee members expressed concern over the significant change in vessel size, navigational constraints, and potential impact on the surrounding waterway, which is commonly used for kayaking and paddleboarding. Members requested detailed schematics for further review before deciding on the matter.

The Waterways Committee proposed revisiting this project in June. This matter will be further discussed on Tuesday, June 24th, 2025.

V. MOORING APPEALS:

1. John Field – BW/038
2. John Higgins – RP/097
3. Anne Kirby – HP/124
4. Fran Elliot – HP/045

Deputy Harbormaster Jay Horn received emails from the individuals above regarding the reinstatement of moorings.

All the mooring holders missed the due dates for the first time. It was decided by the Waterways Committee to reinstate all the moorings respectively (“in a group”). Deputy Harbormaster talked about the fees for the mooring reinstatement: \$135 for the mooring itself, \$50 late fee, and a \$25 reinstatement fee. Additionally, Mr. Horn had mentioned that all the paperwork needs to be updated to reinstate the mooring.

Paul J. Everson – entertained motion to reinstate the moorings.

Greg Egan – motion to approve mooring appeals.

Todd Walantis – second.

All in favor.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Jacob Angelo, Fish Weir Renewal

Jacob Angelo was not present at the time. This matter was moved to the next Waterways Committee meeting on June 24th, 2025.

2. Discussion on the town's Local Comprehensive Plan, regarding references to marine water quality, shellfish and aquaculture – comments submitted by the Harbormaster Taylor.

Information regarding this matter was reviewed by the committee members. No further comment was made.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Scudder Lane Waitlist closer discussion.**

Deputy Harbormaster Jay Horn explained the situation with the Scudder Lane Mooring waitlist. This area doesn't have a lot of turnovers and in the last 5 years only a couple of people got the mooring. Mr. Horn proposed to temporarily close the waitlist to better manage it and get the numbers down. When ready, the waitlist for Scudder Lane will be reopened.

Paul Everson - entertains a motion to approve of closing the Scudder Lane Waitlist.

Todd Walantis – motion to approve.

Gary Shramek – second.

All in favor.

- 2. Experimental pilot project to install a “Floating Island” in Eagle Pond – water monitoring green infrastructure community project. Alice M. Krieg (Planning and Development Grants Coordinator).**

Kyle Pedicino from the planning department, stating, that the “Floating Project” is in conjunction with Pope John Paul’s 16 students and the Barnstable Land Trust. The parties involved are looking to construct a Floating Wetland in Eagle Pond to plant native species and take water samples over the summer.

The dock is 6 ft wide and 6 feet long.

Paul Everson - entertains a motion to accept as proposed.

Todd Walantis – motion to approve.

Greg Egan – second.

All in favor.

3. Proposed potential removal of USCG Navigational Aids Along the U.S. Northeast Coast – comments submitted by the Harbormaster Taylor.

Paul J. Everson stated that he spoke with the Harbormaster regarding the matter. The proposal involves removing HH (Hyannis Harbor) buoy and a BH (Barnstable Harbor) buoy.

The Waterways committee is not in support of this matter due to safety issues.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. All Cape Boat Rental: Commercial Mooring discussion – Jacob Dewey.

Mr. Jacob Dewey, representing All Cape Boat Rental, sought approval for a commercial mooring in either Lewis Bay or Hyannisport to support the seasonal operations of his boat rental business. Mr. Dewey cited recently updated town regulations and the state’s recognition of his enterprise as grounds for eligibility, asserting that commercial moorings were intended to enable economic activity that cannot feasibly wait for the standard 15–20-year waitlist. However, the Waterways Committee expressed concerns that granting such a request could be perceived as circumventing the waitlist process in areas with long-standing demand and limited availability.

2. South Cape Mooring: Commercial Mooring discussion – Josh Rand.

Mr. Josh Rand of South Cape Mooring requested a commercial mooring to support his mooring service operations. His request was framed as a matter of operational necessity and public safety, as his work involves inspecting and maintaining large vessels moored with heavy-duty helix systems.

The committee acknowledged the distinction between the two cases and proposed convening a workshop to evaluate the regulatory framework and explore viable

pathways for accommodating legitimate commercial needs without compromising fairness or the integrity of the waitlist system.

No further correspondence to any.

IX. HARBORMASTER REPORT

1. The Harbormaster's Office would like to inform the public of ongoing efforts to ensure waterway safety and preparedness ahead of the busy boating season. This year again saw an incident involving squid fishing off Hyannisport that resulted in a submerged vessel, which posed a significant navigational hazard. Harbormaster Taylor and Deputy Harbormaster Horn responded, securing and later towing the vessel after the owner declined commercial assistance.
2. In addition, the department improved its safety initiatives under the leadership of Safety Officer James Hurley, who has conducted over 60 vessel inspections since May 1st and strictly enforces safety compliance.
3. Channel markers and buoys have been deployed town-wide, though the public is reminded that early-season drifting may occur.
4. Major infrastructure improvements at Bismore Park have been completed, and preparations are underway for the Figawi race, with extended patrol hours and staffing in place. A new outreach program targeting sailing communities is also being implemented to ensure protocol awareness and emergency readiness.

X. MATTERS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR: None

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chairmen Paul J. Everson entertains a motion to adjourn, seconded by Greg Egan.

Respectfully submitted,

Polina Plucinski
MEA Administrative Assistant
Town of Barnstable