



Town of Barnstable

Waterways Committee

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Waterways Committee Workshop Notes March 8, 2022

A meeting of the Town of Barnstable Waterways Committee was held via Zoom due to the Governor's orders regarding COVID19 on March 8, 2022 at 7:00 pm.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Chairman Paul Everson, quorum has been confirmed and 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 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, Greg Egan, Chairman Paul Everson, and Todd Walantis

Board Members absent: Frederick Komenda

Town Staff present: Jay Horn, Deputy Harbormaster; Brian Taylor, Harbormaster; Tyler Ranauro, Office Manager.

Town Counsel Liaison: Paul Neary absent

II. Workshop

1. Wait Lists:
 - a. Moorings
 - b. Marinas
2. Wait List Lotteries:
 - a. Moorings
 - b. Marinas

Deputy Horn begins the workshop discussing the topic of people on the wait list that pass when offered. The issue that has been brought up is if there should be a limit on the amount of times one person can pass once offered. Currently there are no regulations or guidelines against deferring the offer in place. Deputy Horn also states that every year there is a hard deadline of February 15th for renewal of the wait lists.

Harbormaster Taylor states that in order to add names to a closed waitlist, the regulations state that the department must exhaust the waitlist, which the department has done with some of the lists. The proposed way to add names to a list is through a lottery system. He continues to state that individuals can purchase a ticket to have their name drawn to be on the new open wait list. An example given: 1000 lottery tickets, 25 names drawn, the 25 names are now added to the wait list.

Deputy Horn continues to state that the closed Prince Cove mooring field for instance, currently has 8 people, the previous year there was 17. 'When I got to the end of the wait list, some accepted, others passed, but when the list was finished there were still (3) open moorings with no available candidates.' The solution is to add names to the list to fill the empty moorings.

Mr. Cross asked 'Of the people who were offered, how many were offered moorings (in Prince Cove) in previous years?'

Deputy Horn states that last year was the first year that the decisions of people on the wait list were tracked electronically, and years before that the information would need to be gathered through old paperwork.

Mr. Walantis asks 'When was the last time names were added to the closed Prince Cove mooring wait list?' Harbormaster Taylor states 'presumably when the wait list opened originally.'

Harbormaster Taylor states that Section H of the regulations states that the following waitlists, Prince Cove included, should be closed until the respective waitlists have been diminished and all applicants have either been awarded a mooring or failed to renew. He recommends removing/rewording that verbiage to the Town Manager. This will allow the Harbormaster Department the flexibility to add names when they anticipate a list is nearly exhausted. Mr. Everson agrees with the recommendation.

Mr. Everson asks 'How many applicants have you had apply to be a part of the lottery?' Harbormaster Taylor states that in the past mooring field lottery, +/-1,100 applicants participated. The fee to participate is \$10-\$15, in addition to \$25 to be on the list if awarded.

Mr. Walantis asks: 'How can we go about moving people off the list who pass on the offering of the mooring.' He recommends examining ideas to make the workflow work

towards higher turnover with moorings and waitlists. Harbormaster Taylor explains examples of common occurrences on why someone chooses to pass when offered, including inability to purchase a vessel on demand.

Mr. Cross suggests in addition to the regulations, verbiage that states: 'If you refuse in consecutive years, your name could go to the bottom of the wait list.'

Deputy Horn states that the unused moorings in Town are being policed by the department through the guidelines. For the first time, owners who put kayaks and dingy that are registered to moorings as placeholders have been notified. They have been flagged and will not be able to register the dingy or kayak to their mooring after the year 2022. The vessel will have to be over 12'. Deputy Horn notes the difficulty with policing over 2,500 moorings effectively, but the department is taking large strides.

In regards to the wait list, Deputy Horn states putting people to the bottom of the list is not effective for turnover. The offers go out to the top members of the wait list, and after duration of 5-10 days, some approve, others deny. The offers go down the list and the variance of reasons why people are unable to take a mooring are valid. 'It's a catch-22. People don't have a place to put a boat, as a result, have not purchased a boat as of when they get offered a mooring. Others have put their kids on the list for when they get out of college, but their kid who is offered one is still young.'

Mr. Everson asks if people who chronically reject the mooring offer effect people who are lower on the list, Deputy Horn states: 'No, if anything it is a benefit to the people lower on the list that now have an opportunity as a result.'

Mr. Egan asks if people awarded spots via the lottery effect any one with seniority currently on the list, Deputy Horn states no, the ones who are added will be added to the bottom. Mr. Egan agrees the verbiage should be edited and brought in front of the Town Manager.

Mr. Cross states that when the lottery is finally set after discussion, the season may be close to over. Harbormaster Taylor suggests a rolling lottery could be a possibility.

Mr. Everson states the removing of the verbiage to give the Harbormaster flexibility to announce when a lottery is needed to add names is recommended. Harbormaster Taylor notes that each lottery will need to be advertised via Town Hall and Town site for at least 30 days. Mr. Cross agrees with the recommendation and states that the lottery may change the perception of the mooring/marina wait lists.

Deputy Horn states statistics from 2021: 460 moorings were offered last year, 191 accepted and are off the wait list. Waitlists in 2021 were around 1,360. Moorings were offered from April – October. Mr. Everson additionally states that in 2012, there were 1,338 on the wait lists and only 317 were offered.

Deputy Horn continues:

Prince Cove, Cordwood, Fish Hills, Estey's Ave, Cotuit Bay Shores, West Bay Flats, Barnstable Harbor Marina, Gateway Marina, Prince Cove Marina all could use lotteries.

Mr. Walantis asks how many moorings were available going into the season, Mr. Horn states 22. The final number will be calculated after the April 1st deadline when properties are officially vacant. Deputy Horn states he has organized various mooring fields to hopefully add more moorings to the specific areas. Harbormaster Taylor states that the department's plan to identify unused moorings is through flagging and GIS to identify consistent trends. RFIDs, stickers, equipment are all resources and trends of date over a few years will help the cause.

There being no further business, Mr. Everson made a motion to conclude the workshop at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tyler Ranauro, Office Manager.