



Town of Barnstable

Waterways Committee

1189 Phinneys Lane, Centerville MA 02632

www.townofbarnstable.us

Waterways Committee Workshop Notes May 12, 2026

A Workshop 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 6:00 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 Town of Barnstable's Government Access Channel 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; Peter Cross; Gary Shramek; Greg Egan; Todd Walantis
Board Members absent:

Town Staff present: Brian Taylor, Harbormaster; Jay Horn, Deputy Harbormaster; Alicia Lauzon, MEA Office Manager

Public: Jen Bunnel, Kris Clark, Eric Hess, Michael White, Connor Rogan, Doreen (Fisherman's Alliance), Mary Anne Burke, Lee Ann Bergal, Jeff Kadesh, Neil Andres, Gordon Starr, Brian Ackell, Jared Hemmila

II. WORKSHOP

1. Waitlist Data/Waitlist Assignment

DHM Horn recapped the data collected for individuals on mooring waitlists including the percentages of individuals who passed or accepted moorings over the past few years. He stated at this point, over 70% of people being offered a mooring are passing. DHM Horn went over his process for offering moorings, starting in late March and ending in November, and because of so many people passing and the wait time needed to respond to individuals, he cannot offer as many moorings as he'd like to. DHM Horn proposed one possibility of a strike rule that other towns have implemented. With this method, after a predetermined number of strikes for passing on a waitlist offer, that individual would then be removed from the waitlist or put at the bottom. However, he does have a few issues with this method. The other method DHM Horn proposed was a deferral method of putting individuals on a "deferred" list when they pass on a mooring until they notify the Harbormaster Office they no longer want to be deferred. Discussion followed with some in favor of a deferral method and some opposition to both these methods stating this isn't really a fix for current issues.

2. Commercial Slips Barnstable Harbor

HM Taylor proposed that in order to preserve charter operation in Barnstable Harbor, four slips be kept for charter-for-hire fishing category. HM Taylor stated they are still working out the details and how waitlist offerings would go, but this would allow them to identify who on the waitlist is a charter captain. Then, when a slip becomes available that was previously used for a charter, it could be offered to the next charter fishing vessel. Discussion followed with some questions, including if individuals who are recreational could change to a charter to help get a slip and if these slips would be

offered to commercial fishermen as well. HM Taylor stated that individuals could change from a recreational vessel to a charter and this would only be open to Charter vessels and not Commercial fishing vessels. There was a lot of support for slips designated for Charter fishing vessels, but there was also some suggestion of giving some consideration for commercial fishermen as well.

3. Cotuit Town Dock Small Vessels

DHM Horn brought up the high demand and little space for small vessels stored on town property, especially at Cotuit Town Dock. A couple of possibilities to help remedy this are being looked at including increasing the fee, limiting it to only people with mooring permits, or having a limited number of spaces designated by holding a lottery every year. Discussion followed with comments split both in favor of increasing the fee or limiting spaces to people with mooring permits, as well as not in favor of increasing the fee. It was ultimately agreed that something needs to be done to help remedy the situation.

4. Harbormaster Division Fees

HM Taylor discussed the Harbormaster Division fees among all the multiple Harbormaster accounts; including small vessels, moorings, and marinas. Taylor stated they will be looking at the fees and they plan to submit a fee change request to the Town Manager in October. There was comment of hopefully seeing changes in mooring and waitlist fees to come.

5. Commercial Moorings

DHM Horn discussed a letter of correspondence that was submitted by local Commercial Shellfisherman. DHM Horn stated things are a little more difficult for what can be done with moorings than the marinas. Commercial permits are currently allowed. DHM Horn stated that the town works hard at keeping things fair and equitable for all, and everyone follows the same procedure for getting on a waitlist and getting a mooring. Discussion followed including the current regulations for transfers of moorings. Comments were made that Barnstable should have some sort of designation specifically for Commercial use. There are some other towns that have Commercial moorings and some that do not. DHM Horn stated that our regulations and the state's regulations do not allow for a designated Commercial mooring zone.

III. Correspondence:

1. Commercial Seafood Producer Moorings

IV. Adjournment:

There being no further business, all members are in favor to adjourn at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alicia Lauzon, Town of Barnstable MEA Administrative Assistant