

## Minutes of the Pamet Harbor Commission Meeting

Thursday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, 3:00 – 4:00 PM ET  
24 Town Hall Road, Select Board Chambers, Truro MA 02666

### Attending Members:

Tim Silva, Chairman  
Dave Crocker  
John Donahue

### Participating Guests:

Susan Areson, Truro Select Board Member  
Tony Jackett, Harbormaster  
Gary Sharpless, Assistant Harbormaster

### Order of Business:

#### 1. Bringing the Meeting to Order

Chairman Silva called the meeting to order at 3:09 PM and declared that a quorum of full-time members was present. The attached agenda was reviewed, and the meeting was fully underway.

#### 2. Meeting Minutes Review and Approval

Members studied the June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, meeting minutes. After a brief discussion, the Chairman made a **Motion** for Approval, it was seconded by Dave and unanimously **Granted**.

#### 3. North Jetty Erosion Control and Extension Project

Commission members discussed the dune erosion, now occurring at increasing frequency, between the Easternmost end of the North Jetty and the Southernmost end of the Corn Hill Beach dune. John commented that he has observed over 4 breaches since August 8<sup>th</sup> and has surveyed the breached area, finding material amounts of dune sediment displaced into the Harbor. Photos, attached in the Appendix display the water rushing through the gap and its deteriorating condition.

The Chairman introduced the notion of immediate, short-term solutions to mitigate the intensifying erosion including snow fences and the possible use of modified sandbags. After extensive debate, the Chairman made a **Motion** for Approval, requesting that the Select Board direct the appropriate town agencies to immediately coordinate installing temporary erosion control mechanisms at this gap including West facing snow fences and possibly erecting a wall of sandbags. This Motion was seconded by John and unanimously **Granted**.

This Motion is in addition to the **Motion Granted** at our August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, meeting, requesting that the Select Board seek "stakeholder approval and funding" for a permanent fix, extending the North Jetty into the dune.



Please note that at the May and June 2022 meetings the Commission also recommended that the Town approve and launch the BSC Group Engineering proposal (dated April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, with a \$7,200 project quote) focused on evaluating the erosion conditions and planning a permanent solution.

#### 4. Bird Waste Control

The Commission discussed the worsening safety, human health and water purity concerns excessive bird waste presents in the Harbor. The Harbormaster reported that despite continuous attempts to displace the birds, their prevalence and the volume of waste deposits on boats, docks and rafts proliferates. The Chairman introduced the novel idea of deploying safe and innovative bird control measures.

After extensive dialogue on this issue, the Chairman made a **Motion** for Approval, suggesting that the Harbormaster and his team procure, receive training on and deploy Bird Whistlers ([www.suttonaq.com](http://www.suttonaq.com) handheld launchers, propelled by .22 caliber blanks, which project 2-inch long "screeching" cartridges 300 ft skyward) to safely scare the birds away and assuage the safety, health and environmental risk. This Motion was seconded by Dave and unanimously **Approved**.

#### 5. Town Launch Parking Lot Lines, Arrows and Signage

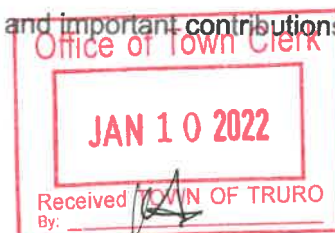
The Commissioners once yet again returned to the significant vehicle/vessel safety need to repaint the parking lot lines and to apply effective signage and arrow traffic guidance. Members were reminded that we first examined this concern and advanced a Motion for Town/DPW action at our August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, meeting. Members further commented that every meeting since then we have revisited and raised this request to no avail. The Chairman put forth a **Motion** for Approval, requesting that the Select Board direct the DPW to explain the lack of response and most importantly to perform this requested work in April of 2023 and each April subsequently. This Motion was seconded by John and unanimously **Approved**.

#### 6. Update on Summer Activity

Tony and Gary provided a very comprehensive review of their team's activity this season and highlighted key performance measure, including:

- an uptick in department revenues, which were currently at \$89k, above 2021 levels,
- the successful reassignment of 10 tidal basin moorings and the transfer of 3 vessels into the basin,
- several impressive vessel rescues including a capsized sailboat and swiftly intervening to prevent a quickly sinking powerboat moored in the Harbor

The Commission members thanked the team for their service and important contributions.



**7. Open discussion of other business**

The Commission dialogued on the Town's consideration of elevating and placing an 8' by 8' culvert at the Mill Pond Road bridge. Attention turned to the Mill Pond's current seemingly robust marine ecosystem and tidal flow. Concerns were aired that altering sediment flow could negatively impact the contour and depth of the boat basin. The Commission would like to politely request to review and opine on these limited specific Harbor ramifications prior to project approval.

**8. Adjournment**

After determining all Commission business had been carried out, the Chairman proposed a **Motion** to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 PM, it was seconded by Dave and unanimously approved by the Commission Members and **Granted**.

12/22/22

approved

T. S. P.

chair

