



Harbors and Waters April Minutes

04/13/2026 meeting held at the Harbormaster's office

Attendance: J. Doub, J. Michaud, M. Burke, S. Wolf, M. Souza

7:30 pm Call to Order

Approve March Minutes.

Marblehead Yacht Club (MYC) Facility Town Inspection Report – All Town owned buildings are now required to be inspected on an annual basis (including Building and Fire Departments and the Board of Health). The recent inspection of the MYC facility identified required roof repairs and updates to the fire communication/response system. As long as a plan is in place and moving forward to address the issues, the building does not need to close. The total estimated costs of the updates are estimated at \$50,000. John Doub noted that the current budget has an estimated maintenance outlay of \$200,000 and proposed amending that amount to \$250,000 based on the current information.

VOTE: *The Board voted unanimously to increase this amount to \$250,000*

Stramski Pier Update: Following up on the March 2026 meeting report on the damage to the pier caused by the vessel that broke its mooring and hit the pier during the major February storm, Mark Souza is working with the Town Engineer to move forward with temporary repairs that would allow the pier to be used by the public this season as well as following up with complete repairs.

- The cost of temporary repairs was estimated at \$36,000 (contracted), but Mark is evaluating performing the repairs in house (still requiring a structural engineer to certify the repair – estimated at \$1,500).
- An initial estimate of full repair came in at \$380,000.
- Timing for performance of full repair could be as early as fall 2026 with an estimated 6-10 weeks for completion. John Doub noted that the Board may need to reconvene for a follow up vote on further amending the FY27 budget to include the repairs.

Mark Souza noted that the owner of the vessel that caused the damage did not have insurance and that the Town's insurance does not cover this type of damage. The Town has notified the vessel owner of the required repairs. This led to a follow up discussion on requiring proof of liability insurance for any vessels moored in the harbors over the winter. **Action Item:** Mark Souza will add this requirements to the Harbormaster's Rules and Regulations.

Budget Update: There were no issues with the Harbors and Waters budget presented at the April 6 hearing. John Doub reviewed the handout that identified the impact on the budget with and without the proposed increases to mooring fees.

Ghost Trap Grant Program: Mark Souza is pursuing a State grant to fund removal of ghost fishing gear within Marblehead Harbors, similar to the project underway in Beverly. This work would be 100% funded (no required match). It was noted that the grant only includes fishing gear (not abandoned moorings). **Action Item:** Mark Souza and Steve Wolf will research potential grant opportunities for abandoned mooring removal.

Pilot Mussel and Eel Grass Restoration Projects: Steve Wolf summarized pilot projects being performed this summer by a team from Sustainable Marblehead, Salem Sound Coastwatch, the Massachusetts Oyster Project, the Tower School, and a consultant to install an oyster upweller adjacent to the Harbormaster's Office and to evaluate the potential for restoring shellfish to the area. The eelgrass restoration is a larger project being led by Northeastern University that will pilot eelgrass seeding late summer at a location off Riverhead Beach.

Harbormaster Report: Request for access by a food truck for parking at Parkers Boatyard on July 4th for a neighbor's event; significant repairs required to the Harbormaster's utility truck estimated at \$8,000.

Public Comment/Questions: Leigh Blander (Marblehead Current) and Sophia Harris (Marblehead Weekly News) had follow up questions regarding details of the Stramski Pier repair.

Adjourn 8:20 pm