TOWN OF WAREHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
2015

MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION
HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN & INFORMATION
(SUPERCEDES WAREHAM HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN OF 1996)

COMMISSION MEMBERS AS OF JANUARY 1, 2015

DONALD JEPSON              CHAIRMAN                COMMISSION EXPIRES: 6/16
TRENTON BLANCHARD          MEMBER                   6/17
WILLIAM “JIM” SMITH        MEMBER                   6/17
WARREN HALL JR.            MEMBER                   6/17
LAWRENCE T, BEARSE         MEMBER                   6/16
RICHARD WHEELER            ASSOCIATE MEMBER        6/16
ASSOCIATE                  VACANT
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INTRODUCTION

THE MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION WAS FORMED AND APPROVED BY VOTERS AT THE 1975 TOWN MEETING. WAREHAM: FIRST TOWN IN MASSACHUSETTS TO HAVE A HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN, FIRST ON THE EAST COAST OF THE U.S. TO HAVE A NO DISCHARGE HARBOR.

THE LAST KNOWN HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN (1996) OF WHICH VERY FEW COPIES EXIST WAS COMPILED AND PREPARED BY LOUIS BERGER & ASSOCIATES, INC. PROVIDENCE, R.I…THE INFORMATION CONTAINED WITHIN THE REPORT IS EXTENSIVE AND CONTAINS SOME VALUABLE, BUT MOSTLY OUTDATED INFORMATION WITH SOME INTERESTING HISTORICAL DATA. OVER THE APPROXIMATELY 20 YEARS SINCE PUBLICATION APPARENTLY LITTLE COMMISSION ACTIVITY HAD TAKEN PLACE OR AT LEAST WENT UN DOCUMENTED. IN 2014 IT WAS DECIDED TO REORGANIZE THE COMMISSION IN ORDER TO BRING THE MEMBERSHIP UP TO ESTABLISHED LEVELS AND TO MOVE FORWARD REVAMPING THE MANAGEMENT PLAN WITH STREAMED, UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION TO INCLUDE INTERNET PATHWAYS ALONG WITH CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS. ADDITIONALLY, TO REVIEW AND UPDATE APPLICABLE BYLAWS AS NEEDED. THE MANAGEMENT PLAN, BY NATURE CONTINUES TO BE A “WORK IN PROGRESS”.

THERE IS A VAST AMOUNT OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE WHICH SHOULD DIRECT AND INFORM THOSE SEEKING DIRECTION LOOKING FOR ANSWERS TO THEIR QUESTIONS. IT IS INCUMBENT UPON THE INDIVIDUAL TO RESEARCH THOSE AREAS OF INTEREST AS APPROPRIATE BEFORE COMING TO THE COMMISSION LOOKING FOR REMEDY. MOST QUESTIONS, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS OR PRACTICES HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY ADDRESSED THROUGH ESTABLISHED RULES, REGULATIONS, LAWS, STATUTES AND A VARIETY OF OTHER ENTITIES. THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS INTENDED TO HELP IN THAT PURSUIT. A VARIETY OF SEARCH ENGINES SUCH AS GOOGLE CAN BE MOST HELPFUL.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT WAREHAM HAS APPROXIMATELY 54 MILES OF WATERFRONT AND EXTENSIVE INTERIOR WETLAND AREAS. THE WAREHAM HARBORMASTER SERVES AS THE EYES AND EARS FOR MOST MATTERS RELATING TO THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT. THE HARBORMASTER AND HIS STAFF ARE IN THE FIELD KEEPING THE COMMISSION ADVISED ON MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE WHICH ARE OR MAY BE IN NEED OF ATTENTION.
MISSION STATEMENT

THE MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION EXISTS TO ACT AS A “CLEARING HOUSE” FOR RESOURCE RELATED ISSUES WHICH HAVE NOT OR CANNOT BE ADDRESSED VIA EXISTING AVAILABLE CHANNELS. THE COMMISSION IS TASKED TO REPORT TO THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN WITH FAIR AND BALANCED COMMENT OR RECOMMENDATION(S).

THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT IS DYNAMIC AND IN A CONTINUOUS STATE OF CHANGE REQUIRING THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT PLAN TO ADAPT AND ADDRESS THOSE CHANGES AS NEEDED. THE MANAGEMENT OF THOSE RESOURCES DICTATES THAT ALL CONCERNED TAKE APPROPRIATE, LAWFUL MEASURES WORKING TOWARD THE BENEFIT ATTAINED THROUGH PROPER GUIDANCE AND SOUND DECISIONS.

THE GOAL OF THE COMMISSION IS TO PROTECT, PRESERVE, PROMOTE AND WHERE POSSIBLE TO IMPROVE UPON THE MARINE RESOURCES OF THE TOWN; WORKING TO ENSURE THAT ADEQUATE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, PRACTICES AND STEWARDSHIP CONTINUE WELL INTO THE FUTURE. THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN IS THE RECOGNITION THAT THE LONG TERM ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OF WAREHAM’S MARINE RESOURCES TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF HARBOR MANAGEMENT.
USERS INFORMATION

SUBJECTS IN RANDOM ORDER WITH SUGGESTED REFERENCES ON WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION AND POINTS OF CONTACT. SUBJECTS ARE LINKED TO REFERENCE KEYS FOR QUICK ACCESS AND ARE FOUND ON THE LAST PAGES OF THIS PUBLICATION.

01. WATER BODIES

A. WAREHAM RIVER SYSTEM INCLUDES THE AGAWAM RIVER, WANKINCO RIVER, WAREHAM RIVER, BROAD MARSH RIVER, CROOKED RIVER, AND MARKS COVE.

B. ONSET BAY SYSTEM INCLUDES; GIBBS BROOK, MUDDY COVE, BROAD COVE, EAST RIVER, SHELL POINT BAY, ONSET BAY AND PLEASANT HARBOR.

C. WEWEANTIC RIVER SYSTEM INCLUDES THE RIVER ALONG WITH HORSESHOE POND AND THE SIPPICAN RIVER.

D. BUZZARDS BAY (A SMALL AREA).

E. SMALLER EMBAYMENTS TO INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO; BOURNE COVE, LITTLE HARBOR, WIDOWS COVE, BUTLERS COVE, AS WELL AS A VAST AREA OF INLAND NON TIDAL WATER RESOURCES.

NOTE: FOR VISUAL GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE SEE NOAA CHART 13236. ALSO, HARBORMASTERS WEBSITE, NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES AND OTHER UPDATED CHARTS AND MAPS.

02. BATHYMETRY: (CHARTED DEPTHS)

NOAA CHART 13236

03. SEDIMENT DATA

REF KEY 6

04. DREDGING PRIVATE & PUBLIC

REF KEYS 2 & 11

05. WATER QUALITY (MARINE)

REF KEYS 3 & 11
06. FECAL COLIFORM

REF KEYS 5, 9 & 11

07. DRAINAGE / DISCHARGING INTO WATERWAYS; PROHIBITED, ALL AREAS.

REF KEY 11

08. MARINE PUMP OUT FACILITIES:

REF KEYS 9 & 11

09. FUEL HANDLING FACILITIES AND REGULATIONS:

REF KEY 11

10. WASTE WATER: (SHORE SIDE ORIGIN)

REF KEYS 3, 6 & 9

11. MAPS, OVERLAYS ETC.

REF KEY 13
ALSO, SEE FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY & TOWN PUBLICATIONS.

12. ZONING:

REF KEY 13

13. MARINE FACILITIES (PUBLIC)

REF KEYS 11 & 13

14. MARINAS & BOAT YARDS (PRIVATE)

REF KEY 11
ALSO SEE WATERWAY GUIDES, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, YELLOW PAGES AND TRADE PUBLICATIONS.

15. PUBLIC PIERS, DOCKS AND BOATING AREAS:

REF KEY 11
16. PUBLIC RAMPS AND LAUNCHING: REF KEY 11

17. MOORING INFORMATION: REF KEY 11

18. RECREATIONAL INFORMATION (MARINE) REF KEY 11

19. HARBOR REGULATIONS: REF KEY 11

20. NAVIGATION RULES & REGULATIONS:

21. SHELLFISH RULES, REGULATIONS, CLOSINGS & INFO. REF KEY 11

22. EEL GRASS INFORMATION:
    REF KEYS 5 & 11

23. WATER QUALITY (MARINE)
    REF KEYS 9 & 11

24. CONSTRUCTION: WETLAND /MARINE RELATED
    ISSUES. PERMITS REQUIRED AS APPLICABLE. (FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY AND TOWN)
REFERENCE KEY INDEX

01. U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY (USGS)
DATA, MAPS, PUBLICATIONS, PRODUCTS & SERVICES.
1-888-275-8747       www.usgs.gov

02. U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (COE)
MAPS, CHARTS, PUBLICATIONS & INFORMATION BY DISTRICT.
1-202-761-0011       www.usace.army.mil

03. MASS. DEPT. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEM)
1-508-946-2700       www.mass.gov/eea/agencies

04. MASS. COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT (CZM)
1-617-626-1200       www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/czm

05. MASS. DIV MARINE FISHERIES (DMF)
1-617-626-1633       www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dfg/dmf

06. MASS., DIV OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL
1-508-946-2700       www.mass.gov/eea/agencies

07. WAREHAM SHELLFISH COMMISSION (harbor master)
1-508-291-3100- (3186)       www.wareham.ma.us

08. BUZZARDS BAY PROJECT
1-508-291-3625       www.buzzardsbay.org
09. WAREHAM BOARD OF HEALTH
   1-508-291-3196

10. NOAA (NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION)
    1-301-943-6977

11. WAREHAM HARBOR MASTER
    1-508-291-3100 (3186)

12. U.S. COAST GUARD (USCG)
    1-617-223-8355 (waterways)

13. TOWN OF WAREHAM *
    1-508-291-3100

THE WAREHAM TOWN WEBSITE AS WELL AS OTHER SITES LISTED CONTAINS IMPORTANT AND USEFUL LINKS TO OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION SUCH AS:
    FLOOD ZONES AND MAPS, HURRICANE INFORMATION, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND EVACUATION, WETLAND AND ZONING BYLAWS AND MUCH MORE.