



Waterways Committee
Harwich Town Hall
732 Main Street
Harwich, MA 02645

March 10, 2024

Dear Committee Members,

We are writing to request consideration for a special mooring permit for a wakeless safety launch at Fernandes Beach, Long Pond, for annual use during the rowing season from April 1- November 1.

Our 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, Cape Cod Community Rowing, Inc. (CCCR), supports a rowing community of all ages and abilities through programming at Long Pond in Harwich. As you are aware, we have offered programs for many years from Fernandes Beach, providing rowing opportunities for our region's youth and adults through recreational and competitive rowing programs. We are the only Cape Cod club offering a competitive rowing program for middle and high school students. In addition, we provide classes for cancer survivors in collaboration with Cape Wellness Collaborative.

During the fall of 2023, CCCR received a time-sensitive grant from the Cape Cod Foundation to support the purchase of a wakeless safety launch and joined the waiting list for a mooring at Fernandes Beach, Long Pond. As we are nearing the purchase of the launch, we would like to request an exception to the standard mooring assignment protocol to allow for the addition of a mooring for use between April 1 and November 1 annually.

This launch – and the mooring to access it - is a critical part of our safety plan, providing a solid rescue platform within inches of the water level to rescue an injured or unconscious rower by pulling them directly onto the platform. The flat platform would allow the coach to administer CPR or other first aid to the prone rower. In addition, this launch can come alongside a rowing shell to administer aid or coach those who are hearing impaired, unlike launches with wakes that prevent getting close to a rower. Equally important, this would enable us to rescue a group of rowers quickly at once (such as a shell with 8 rowers and a coxswain).

We look forward to your response. Please do not hesitate to contact me by cell 386-846-8621 or email sharlonesones@gmail.com if you have questions or concerns. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sharlene Sones
Chair, Board of Directors
Cape Cod Community Rowing, Inc

cc: John Rendon, Harbormaster

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