


Memo

To: Chairman, Board of Selectmen
Via: Joseph F. Powers, Town Administrator
From: John C. Rendon, Harbormaster 
Date: January 10, 2022
Subject: Round Cove Landing

Ref: (a) Harbor Management Plan

Recommend a change to reference (a), Section 13.9 that would make Round Cove landing only available for use by Harwich residents, to include any Harwich property taxpayer. Round Cove landing is a small waterfront facility with a public boat ramp. The landing has always been heavily used, as it supports access for the permitted users of the 95 public moorings that are located in Round Cove, and the users of the boat ramp. However, over the last couple of years the public use of the landing has increased due in large part to a waterways regulation change by the Town of Chatham. Chatham recently instituted a significant Waterway User Fee for non-residents wanting to use its town facilities, and as such Round Cove boat ramp and landing have become a choice alternative to those who do not want to pay the user fee charge. In addition, with the recent upgrade of the Round Cove boat ramp, we have seen an increase in its use.

Our current regulation in Section 13.9 only addresses the use of the Round Cove boat ramp. Specifically, users of the boat ramp must display either a Harwich resident beach sticker, transfer station sticker (discontinued), a seasonal ramp permit sticker, or display a copy of mooring permit sticker. So currently non-residents of Harwich can use the boat ramp if they purchase a seasonal ramp pass or have a mooring permit in Harwich. The regulation does not address the parking of vehicles only at the landing.

I propose the following regulation change that limits the use of Round Cove landing and boat ramp to Harwich residents/taxpayers only during the period of Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day weekend:

1. A specific Round Cove Parking Permit, issued by the Harbormaster Department, will be required to be displayed on any vehicle parked at the landing.
2. A Round Cove Parking Permit, issued by the Harbormaster Department, will be required to be displayed on any vehicle used to launch a boat at the Round Cove boat ramp. The seasonal ramp pass currently available to purchase by residents and non-residents will no longer include the use of Round Cove boat ramp.
3. Only Harwich residents/tax payers are eligible to purchase a Round Cove Parking Permit.

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4. Harwich residents/tax payers will be allowed to purchase only one Round Cove Parking Permit per address for a fee of \$25.00. Permits will be sold at the Harbormaster Department office; proof of residency and vehicle registration required.
5. Round Cove mooring permit holders will be provided one Round Cove Parking Permit at no charge; the assigned parking permit will have the same number as the mooring permit number. Those Round Cove mooring permit holders who are not residents of Harwich will receive one Round Cove Parking Permit with a number corresponding to their mooring permit; this is the only exception to the Harwich residency requirement, as Massachusetts General Law states that assignment of mooring permits shall not discriminate on the basis of residence.
6. Violators of Round Cove parking permit requirements will be subject to a \$50.00 parking violation issued by the Harbormaster Department.
7. Proper signage will be posted at the Round Cove ramp and landing outlining regulation.

It is my hope that the proposed regulations will help to control the use of the landing and ramp so our town residents will be able to better access and more fully enjoy the special waterfront facility that is Round Cove.

Enclosure: (1) Harbor Management Plan, Section 13.9

Copy: (1) Chairman, Waterways Committee

two towns and the Division of Marine and Law Enforcement. The area shoreward of these markers is designated "Headway Speed Zone", and these marker buoys should so indicate.

Signs at the Town Landings Indicate: restricted areas; advise landing and boat ramps closed at 10:00 pm; no alcoholic beverages allowed at landings or public beach; parking sticker required.

13.0 BOAT RAMPS

The Town of Harwich maintains several boat ramps for public use. Tidal-water ramps are located at Saquatucket Harbor in Harwich Port; Allen Harbor in Harwich Port; Round Cove in East Harwich, Herring River in West Harwich and there are two public ramps located on Long Pond. All ramps are governed by the Town of Harwich regulations listed herein, in addition to the provisions of the Town of Harwich Protective By-Laws and the Code of Massachusetts Regulations, Title 32A, Sections 2.00 through 2.05, (See Appendix D).

- 13.1 The Town shall make available Seasonal Boat Ramp Passes for the Saquatucket Harbor, Allen Harbor, and 1st Landing Long Pond ramp areas. The passes are in the form of an adhesive sticker.
- 13.2 Stickers shall be permanently affixed to the boat trailers left side fender or trailer tongue.
- 13.3 Daily (one-day) passes shall be sold and honored at the Saquatucket Harbor, Allen Harbor 1st Landing Long Pond (available July and August).
- 13.4 Unless otherwise posted no vessel shall tie-up unattended alongside any public Town landing courtesy float longer than 15 minutes, nor shall any vessel tie-up, berth or cause to be docked or tied to any other area within a Town landing more than 30 minutes. Any boat left unattended at any float or landing stage, and any boat removed from the water and left on Town property will be removed at the expense of the owner. In the event that markings have been removed or defaced or if ownership cannot be determined within sixty (60) days, the boat may be sold at public auction, destroyed by the Harbormaster, or disposed of in any other manner permissible by law.
- 13.5 All trailers, boats, and recreational vehicles must vacate the parking area between midnight and 4:00 A.M. daily.
- 13.6 There shall be no fueling (either diesel or gasoline) of boats, outboard motors, auxiliary motors, etc. in the area of the boat launching facility.
- 13.7 All, fish, fish fillet, fish parts, shellfish, etc., shall be kept onboard any boat or vessel using the boat ramp while in the area of the boat ramp and public parking area.
- 13.8 Persons violating any provision of these regulations, as currently enacted or as may from time to time be added or amended shall be subject to a fine as more specifically provided elsewhere in these regulations for each offense and each consecutive day shall constitute a separate violation.
- 13.9 **Round Cove Boat Ramp** – The Round Cove Boat Ramp is limited in use to boat trailers, with vessel maximum length overall of 25' (Twenty-five feet) and displaying a Harwich resident sticker for the launching and retrieving of vessels without obtaining a Ramp Use Permit. For the purpose of this regulation "residents" shall mean any lawful resident of the Town and/or any Harwich property tax payer, or any current Harwich mooring permit holder.

Vehicles not displaying a current Harwich resident beach or transfer station sticker must display a current Harwich seasonal ramp permit sticker on the trailer or Harwich mooring permit on the vehicle's dashboard. Due to the propensity for undermining the ramp's foundation, power loading or power launching of boats shall be strictly prohibited at the Round Cove boat ramp and a sign will be posted at the ramp. Parking shall be limited to perimeter of the area and a full lane width as a fire lane in the parking area to the gangway at the bulkhead shall be maintained at all times. Vehicles or trailers blocking this fire lane will be subject to parking fines. Any vehicle or trailer blocking this fire lane shall be subject to the fines and expense of towing.

Exemptions from use sticker requirement: Federal, state, county and municipal government agencies also commercial boat haulers and marine contractors.

Enforcement: The provisions of this regulation may be enforced by Police Officers, Harbormaster and Assistant Harbormasters. Violations of this regulation shall be issued to the vehicle owner and/or boat owner, and fines may be assessed up to \$200 per offense.

14.0 WASTES/TRASH DISPOSAL AND USE OF DUMPSTERS

- A. No person shall dump any rubbish, trash, refuse, garbage, or litter at any public landing other than by depositing same in any receptacle that may be provided by the Town for the purpose. No person shall deposit any fish parts in any receptacle provided by the town without first double plastic bagging and tying same.
- B. No person other than a boat operator shall deposit any rubbish or refuse in any dumpster at a town landing or pier. Home generated rubbish and refuse shall not be deposited in town landing receptacles.
- C. Waste oil and associated oil filters generated from motorboat crankcase oil changes from boats situated at Town-operated slips and/or having Harwich dockage permits shall be deposited in the recycling depot at Saquatucket Marina or at the recycling tank at the Town Disposal Area, Queen Anne Road.

15.0 WATERWAYS & PONDS

- 15.1 Speed Limit Buck's Pond: In either Buck's Pond or in John Joseph Pond, no motor boat shall operate at a speed in excess of six (6) miles per hour.
- 15.2 Water Skiing Prohibited on Buck's Pond and John Joseph Ponds: No person shall engage in water skiing in either Buck's Pond or in John Joseph Ponds.
- 15.3 Motorboats Prohibited on Sand Pond: The use of boats propelled by motor, either inboard or outboard, shall be prohibited on Sand Pond, North Harwich.
- 15.4 Motorboats and Waterskiing Prohibited on Skinequit Pond: The use of all boats propelled by motor, whether inboard or outboard and waterskiing shall be prohibited on Skinequit Pond, South Harwich.
- 15.5 Violations and Penalties: Any violation of Sections 15.3, 15.4 and 15.11 shall be punishable by a fine of not more than twenty dollars (\$20.00).
- 15.6 Motor Boats on Hinkley's Pond and Seymour's Pond: No motor boat more than six (6) horsepower shall be operated on Hinkley's Pond. No motor boat more than three (3) horsepower shall be operated on Seymour's Pond.
- 15.7 Speed Limit on Hinkley's Pond and Long Pond: No motorboat shall exceed speed limit as defined in this section on various ponds in Harwich. All ponds shall be posted as follows: Hinkley's Pond five (5) statute miles per hour; Seymour's Pond five (5) statute miles per hour.
- 15.8 Violations and Penalties: Any violation of Section 15.6, 15.7 and 15.9 of this by-law shall be punishable by a fine of not more than fifty (\$50) dollars.
- 15.9 Motor Boats- Walker's Pond: No motor boats shall be operated on Walker's Pond provided, however, a small electric motor type used for fishing may be used as propulsion.
- 15.10 Cahoon Road Landing - Long Pond: No motorboat of more than ten (10) horsepower or used for waterskiing may be launched or operated from the boat ramp at Cahoon Road Landing at the east end of Long Pond.
- 15.11 Launching and Beaching of Boats: It shall be unlawful to launch or beach boats at any Town-owned or operated location except in areas designated and posted therefore by the Board of Selectmen.
- 15.12 Restrictions on Anchoring in Certain Areas: It shall be unlawful to anchor any boat closer than seventy-five (75') feet of mean low water mark at any Town-owned or operated bathing beach.