

# Harbor Report

January 2025

## Overview

Several harbor projects remain in active progress. The Lake Tashmoo Channel dredging nears successful completion, with a work summary and lessons-learned report being compiled for the first time. A pre-construction meeting has been scheduled with the contractor for the Owen Park Pier project this week.

Annual mooring bills are being prepared for mailing, and waitlist reminders have been sent. A remaining group of overdue mooring inspections and winter stake violations have been mailed. The Department has met several times with the Oak Bluffs Harbormaster, and coordination is ongoing on shared matters including dredging. In addition, the resumption of dredge permitting in Vineyard Haven Harbor and long-term fiscal and operational planning are underway.

The Department appeared before the Select Board to secure approval of amended Waterways Regulations and to participate in a discussion regarding a proposed dredge committee, which was not recommended at this time.

## Waterways projects

### Owen Park Pier replacement moving forward

The contractor has scheduled a pre-construction meeting with the Department, and materials have been delivered. Demolition is scheduled to begin in February, with a total duration of approximately three months.

### Lagoon Pond Landing Lighting and Monitoring

The Harbor Department was awarded a \$25,000 grant from DMF for solar lighting and monitoring cameras at the Lagoon Pond landing, with support from the LPA and other stakeholders. The Department will be coordinating with other Town departments on design and installation.

### Technology

The Department is evaluating new web-based tools for mooring surveys and enforcement, to be presented at a future meeting. Improvements to MooringInfo are being reviewed, along with potential replacement by a more modern, comparable software platform and options available through OpenGov.

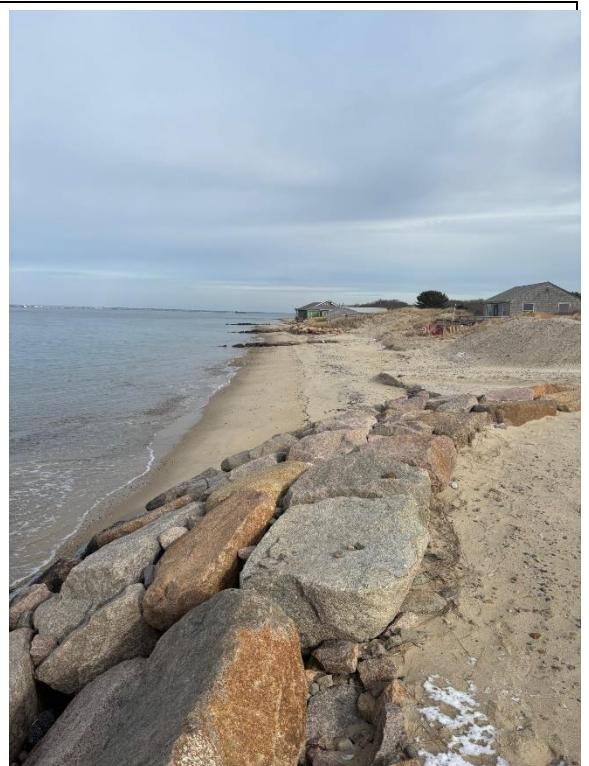
## Topics for Consideration

### Identification, prioritization, and planning of Dredge projects

Expanded upon below is summary of dredging projects and needs. The harbor department looks to consider ways to collaborate with the committee to directly support these projects. Staff level work, working group support, methods for public input, and most importantly deliverables should be agreed upon.

### Waterway regulations dinghy language

Minor updates to the waterways regulations have been approved to clarify existing language. Language for the dinghy dock has been presented in two ways for consideration by the committee.



## Dredging

**VHH Harbor + Breakwater Back-Channel:** An updated permitting and filing timeline, along with a proposed cost and contract amendment, has been prepared. Approximately \$45,000 was expended on professional services under the prior and currently open WHG contract. A contract amendment will need to be approved and signed.

**Lake Tashmoo Channel:** Dredging is nearly complete for Winter 2025, with bathymetric survey work scheduled for the week of January 19. A summary of work completed and lessons learned is being compiled. An amended Order of Conditions has been approved to expand the disposal site, and a consolidated permit filing is being prepared to include the expanded disposal area and additional dredge zones, along with evaluation of alternatives to streamline future maintenance dredging. A broader summary of site improvements, informed by public and NRAC input, will be developed at the staff level. Edgartown Dredge, Woods Hole Group, and the Harbor Department have coordinated effectively through site visits, progress reviews, and field oversight. The Department is optimistic about the results of this project, although expresses caution in the face of the unpredictable natural forces affecting the area.

**Additional Locations** The Department has begun initial discussions with the Oak Bluffs Harbormaster regarding shared dredging areas in Lagoon Pond and near the Eastville Jetty. Areas adjacent to the Steamship Authority terminal affected by prop wash are also being evaluated. A town-wide assessment, prioritization, and recommended next steps for future dredging needs will need to be developed.

## Budgeting, Warrants Waterways Accounting

The Harbor Department is reviewing options to modernize how funds are warranted and appropriated, with consideration of the long-standing collection warrant articles. Proposed warrants have been attached to this report.

## Additional Information

Mooring inspectors continue to work diligently to complete outstanding inspections. The number of pending inspections has been reduced from a high of nearly 200 to fewer than 95, reflecting steady progress toward full compliance. Violation letters for mooring inspections and winter stake issues have been mailed. The department was awarded 25,000 from dmf for improvements to the lagoon pond boat ramp. The department surveyed mooring balls and winter stakes earlier last week.