

Marina Parking

The Wellfleet Marina currently has 450 pleasure and commercial boat slips and moorings. There are 301 total parking spaces, including 10 handicap spaces. Sixty of those spaces are designated for boat trailer parking, as required by the state. None of the remaining 241 spaces are specifically designated for boaters.

The Marina parking area has been identified and utilized as the town's municipal parking lot and has served as an overflow parking area for the town center and Commercial Street businesses. In addition to spaces used by boaters, there is considerable usage by patrons and employees of area restaurants, galleries, theater, lodging, Shellfish Department, Beach Permit Office, commercial fisheries deliveries, marina walkers, wedding attendees, etc.

The boaters' marina parking survey revealed that most boaters did not have a problem finding parking during this past boating season. This is attributed to the extensive limitations placed on boaters ability to leave and enter the harbor due to a lack of dredging. It is expected that the demand for boater parking will increase a great deal when dredging is accomplished, as the usage of boats will increase with the ability to use the harbor any time. The Marina Enterprise Fund meets the needs of virtually all of the marina's operating expenses. In order to continue to maintain the marina's required financial income without major funding by the town, adequate parking has to be provided for boaters after dredging is completed.

The marina has been used as the town's municipal parking lot for many years. In addition to parking for boaters, it has been serving some of the parking needs of the greater marina business area as well as businesses and patrons on Commercial Street leading to the center of town. As such, this matter is best addressed as part of a master plan to attempt to meet various needs. It appears that plan will certainly need to examine the possibility of a new extension parking area utilizing a shuttle bus operation. Given the expected increased demand for boater marina parking with the advent of dredging, it is recommended that the select board begin formulating a plan prioritizing the allocation of marina parking spaces. It is also recommended that the services of professionals with planning expertise be utilized by the town.

