



# Town of Chatham

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I, Julie Smith, duly appointed Town Clerk of the Town of Chatham, hereby certify the following Article was adopted at the May 13, 2024 Annual Town Meeting:

**Article 41 – Proposed General Bylaw Amendment; Chapter 265 (Waterways),  
Section 20, Subsections B and C**

~~Strikethrough~~ indicates language proposed for deletion.

Underline indicates language proposed for inclusion.

***Bold Italicized*** words are defined in the existing Bylaw.

To see if the Town will vote to amend its existing Waterways Bylaw, **Chapter 265, Section 20, Subsections B and C.**, as follows:

**Chapter 1 General Provisions, Article 1-7 D. Non-Criminal Disposition Penalties**

***Chapter 265, Waterways (Harbormaster/harbor patrol)***      ~~**\$200**~~      **\$300**

Or to take any action in relation thereto.

(Select Board)

**Motion:** Shareen Davis, Select Board, moved that the Town vote to amend its Waterways Bylaw as printed in the Warrant for Article 41 in order to raise the maximum allowable fine from \$200 to \$300.

**Explanation:** *At the September 21, 2023, Waterways Advisory Committee (WAC) meeting, the group discussed at length a proposal by the Harbormaster to increase the dollar amount for Waterway's Bylaw fines from \$200 to \$300 to help ensure compliance. The proposed increase to \$300 is the maximum allowable fine under state law. Many other communities including Falmouth, Barnstable and Eastham allow waterway fines up to \$300. This increase will allow for increased penalties for the more serious waterway infractions including pollution and negligent boat operations. The Waterways Committee endorsed this increase, and they unanimously voted in favor of the up to \$300.00 maximum fine. Currently the general bylaw allows for \$300 fines for Animal Control, Historic Preservation and Wetlands Protection.*

**Select Board Recommendation:**                      **Approve: 5-0-0**

**Finance Committee Recommendation:**                      **Approve: 8-0-0**

**VOTE: VOICE. So Voted Unanimously.**