

Lawton Family Marina

The application for a 10- slip marina on a single, undeveloped waterfront lot is excessive. In my opinion the application does not pass the "Reasonable Man" test based on its SIZE AND LOCATION.

This application differs from marinas supported by communities which exist on Herring Creek and both the Hopkins and Burton's Prongs. In these marinas, the communities regulate the marinas through covenants and by-laws with the total community's best interest as the guiding principle.

These covenants and by-laws address docks and surrounding area usage (when, who, how), maintenance, and storage (boats and trailers). My community even without a marina regulate waterfront properties for the benefit of the entire community.

Waterfront properties not incorporated with a community have reasonable size docking self-regulated by existing homes.

With this application a large 10-slip dock will be unregulated for usage, (when, how, who), maintenance, and storage.

Another concern is the Herring Creek channel. An unmarked channel exists from the channel markers west of Rehoboth Bay. Once clearing the channel markers, there is a straight channel west for approximately 1.35 miles to the Burton and Hopkin's Prongs.

This channel is utilized by boaters and residents west of the proposed 10-slip marina as well as boat traffic coming from Rehoboth Bay.

This channel is utilized for water skiing, tubing, wake boarding, kayaking, and rowing. Crabbing, even trot lines congest the waterway further. Boat anchoring occurs as boats look for smooth water to enjoy the day. Larger boats once on plane are reluctant to come off plane in the channel.

The Department's process of informing and assessing distances from a new structure is appropriate and appreciated. With the Delaware Inland Waterways, depth and width of channels is a consideration. Utilization of this channel is increasing yearly.

The potential of narrowing the channel has implications and safety concerns for everyone utilizing the Herring Creek channel.