

## Public Hearing Comments

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Comments on Docket #2021-P-W-0001 (Lawton Family Marina)

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### Comments:

Please note that these comments supersede my March 2020 submission as these comments address additional concerns. Regarding the proposed Lawton Family Marina on Herring Creek: I would like to point out that marinas have a "No Wake Zone" associated with them. The area where the new marina is to be located is "the play area" of Herring Creek. This large area has the widest and (non-channeled) deepest water in the entire creek. It is literally the only section in the entirety of Herring creek, from Rehoboth Bay to the ends of both prongs of Herring Creek, where boats can safely tow tubes, wake boarders or water skiers. Boats safely travel in a large circle between the Hazard Shoal channel markers to the split of the two prongs. Unfortunately, the circular play area includes the proposed marina. Having a no wake zone in this area effectively stops Herring Creek from being used as a recreational water sports area. Although Rehoboth Bay can be used for towing, the water in the bay is too rough for wake boarders and water skiers. Although I frequently see wake boarders and water skiers on the play area of Herring Creek, I do not see them on the bay. In addition to the "no wake" concerns, a pier for a marina that juts out much farther into the creek than a standard dock would restrict the size of the "play area" of Herring Creek. In the event that the marina is granted permission to be built I'd like to request that there be consideration for the neighbors, including those across the creek, in terms of lighting. The current Herring Creek marinas have relatively bright lights that are on for most, if not the entire, night. I'd also like to request that since this is a family marina, that renting out boat slips be prohibited and only the Lawton family's boats be allowed there. Filling up any unused boat slips with other boats would increase the usage of the marina, beyond what would be expected for a family marina. For the same reason, I would like to request that there be a maximum of the allotted ten boats and not have extra boats tied up to the dock or moored as this would also change the character of the marina. In summary, although I appreciate the desire for the Lawton family to have access to the water, I question why they feel the need for a private family marina, rather than conventional docks for each of the waterfront properties. Do we really want to set a precedent for allowing family owned marinas to be built on Herring Creek?