

Public Hearing Comments

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Comments on Docket #2021-P-W-0016 -- Pubusky/Taylor

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Organization:

Comments:

To whom it may concern: We are objecting to the proposed plan for a pier and dock for the Pubusky/Taylor property on the Herring Creek Cove. We do not want to deny the Taylor family access to the water from their property. However, we are in opposition to the size and scope of their proposed pier and dock. The dock is extremely disproportionate to their existing dock and all the existing docks in the cove. We are in agreement with Mr. and Mrs. Stephens, who spoke at the public hearing, and stated that the size of the proposed pier and dock is radically larger than the tenant's current dock and is out of proportion to the neighboring structures on Herring Creek Cove. We are also concerned about the unreasonable size and possibility that if approved this might set a precedent for future neighboring dock proposals. We feel a much better solution would be for DNREC to grant an exception which would allow the Taylor family to put a 200' walkway to their existing dock. This would have been permissible in 1999 when the original dock was constructed by the previous owners. It is not the fault of the Taylor family that the walkway is not in existence. It would only make sense for the exception for the longer walkway to be "Grandfathered" in by DNREC. Even so, a walkway of 150 feet to their existing dock would improve the current situation and have a lesser impact on the wetlands than running an ATV or even foot traffic across the wetlands. The current owners have a 150' walkway over wetlands as part of their proposed plan so obviously, this could be part of the solution to use their current dock. It would be nice to see our new neighbors able to use and have fun on the water as we do. We feel that the above solution would provide them access. Unfortunately, the design of the new proposed pier and large dock will interfere with our family's use and enjoyment of our slip and the waterway. We already have a difficult and sometimes impossible time accessing our slip and waterway during low tides and have to plan our water use according to the high tide schedule as do all of our neighbors. Even then, depending on the wind, water depth, water currents and other conditions, we need to make a wide turn using the waterway's width to navigate into our slip. It is our concern that a 32' structure protruding into the narrowest part of the cove would cause a navigation issue for us. In addition, a 40 foot dock at the end of that pier would infringe to an extreme extent on the narrow waterway. Long time residents should not be negatively impacted because one family wants to take over the cove. Ms. Pubusky stated at the hearing that they need such a large structure for their pontoon, fishing boat and jet skis. Only the pontoon and jet ski were identified on their application with DNREC. We do not believe it is fair to allow a larger dock just because they want to accommodate additional vessels. Ms. Pubusky also stated that she has relatives who live in the area who will be visiting them by waterway. When visiting, this will add approximately 9 additional feet of obstruction to the cove's waterway when they are docked parallel to the outside of the Taylor Family's dock further narrowing the waterway (even further if the visitors dock bow against the dock.) We are also concerned about the legitimacy of the "Letter of No Objection" petition that was submitted as evidence in support for their proposal. It contains 20 signatures, many of which are not legible, and does not include any addresses of residency. How do we know the people providing support are even impacted by this project? Because our property will be the most negatively impacted by this unreasonably sized structure, please consider denying this application

as it currently exists and consider granting the Taylors permission to build a new smaller structure comparable to their current dock or grant an exception to build a walkway in excess of 150 feet over the wetlands to their current dock which should have been already in existence at the time DNREC approved the original dock in 1999. Thank you, John and Beth Nikolaus