

MacNeil, Jami

From: MacNeil, Jami
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 4:15 PM
To: Nadine Bangerter
Subject: RE: SHM Rockland, LLC's Natural Resources Protection Act permit application (#L-20386-4P-P-N)

Dear Mr. & Ms. Bangerter,

Thank you for your comments regarding the expansion of an existing marina in Rockland Harbor as proposed by SHM Rockland, LLC. The Department is currently reviewing the application (#L-20386-4P-P-N) under Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA). The Department accepted the application as complete for processing on July 26, 2021. The statutory deadline for the Department to reach a final decision on the application is November 23, 2021. The deadline for public comments on the application is November 1, 2021.

Your comments will be added to the file and will be considered during the review of the project. You may contact me with additional concerns, questions, or comments at (207) 446-4894 or via email at jami.macneil@maine.gov.

Sincerely,
Jami

-Jami MacNeil (she/her)
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Bureau of Land Resources
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
(207) 446-4894 | jami.macneil@maine.gov

From: Nadine Bangerter <nlbangerter@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 10:18 AM
To: MacNeil, Jami <Jami.MacNeil@maine.gov>
Subject: SHM Rockland, LLC's Natural Resources Protection Act permit application (#L-20386-4P-P-N)

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Please find below our comments on

SHM Rockland, LLC's Natural Resources Protection Act permit application (#L-20386-4P-P-N)

Summer and fall days the streets of downtown Rockland are filled with locals and tourists, visiting art galleries, dining, shopping and taking in the harbor. Rockland is a small town, barely over 7,100 residents. It's not fancy, that would be it's neighbor Camden. In fact, Rockland is infamous for being a working family town. So even when cruise ships come in, many of the passengers are loaded on buses to Camden. Rockland, unlike Bar Harbor, is not by any major tourist destination. But those of us who live here and those that visit our town appreciate the beauty and breadth of our harbor. My husband and I chose Rockland as our home, over ten years ago, specifically for the harbor. Camden, Belfast and Rockport have cozy, intimate harbors. Rockland's bay, in contrast is wide open, taking in views of a broad harbor, breakwater, lighthouse, bobbing

moored boats, and views of the bay stretching all the way to North Haven. Ferries ply the waters every day. Vintage schooners grace the harbor. It's a democratic town – all are welcome to take in these views, sit for awhile along the boardwalk, gather for community events, and meet up with friends for a harbor walk.

And yet, Safe Harbor Marinas LLC wants to build moorage for a marina that can hold 200' yachts. For what purpose? The vision of Safe Harbor Marinas LLC is to create a haven for wealthy boat owners. Per the original 2017 application for a federal Boating Infrastructure Grant, which Safe Harbor Marinas LLC has taken over, the stated goal is "Yachting Solutions Boat Basin is positioned to become the most attractive destination for megayachts between Portland and Bangor." These planned periodic visitors have no vested interest in our community. They have no reason to contribute to our community. They will moor for a week and never return.

It is our understanding there is no guarantee that the public will retain public access to the harbor walk. There is no guarantee that if we retain access, that megayachts wouldn't obstruct views of the breakwater, bay, lighthouse, and islands. Nor, with the addition of 10,000 gallons of fuel for boat owners, is there a guarantee our bay will be safe from an oil spill.

The lost to the residents, who bought their homes, established their livelihoods, raised their families and made Rockland their home, is the very essence of this community. Will community events like the annual Lobster Festival (30,000 attendees) or North Atlantic Blues Festival (7,000 attendees) be a view of megayachts and not a local celebration of our harbor. Will businesses feel compelled to cater to the super rich, especially if they lose current patrons, making downtown unaffordable for many. Will the beauty of our bay only be accessible to those who can afford to moor their yachts and not all it's residents?

This mega marina has no place in a working family, small town in Midcoast Maine.

Thank you

Nadine and Larry Bangerter
Rockland, Maine