

MacNeil, Jami

From: Laurence Coe <laurence_coe@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 28, 2021 10:49 AM
To: MacNeil, Jami
Cc: bdorr@rocklandmaine.gov; ndavis@rocklandmaine.gov; eglaser@rocklandmaine.gov; saustin@rocklandmaine.gov; Imaclellanruf@rocklandmaine.gov; news; news@penbaypilot.com; ddunkle@villagesoup.com; copyedit@freepressonline.com; Becca Glaser
Subject: SHM Rockland, LLC's Natural Resources Protection Act permit application (#L-20386-4P-P-N)

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Dear Jami MacNeil,

I am a Rockland resident with deep, deep concerns about SHM Rockland, LLC's proposal to reconfigure our harbor in order to service super-yachts. Chief among my concerns are these:

(1) first and foremost, the adverse environmental impact of the proposed enterprise from start to finish and beyond: significant dredging will be required, causing major disturbance of local sea life and requiring safe disposal of dredged matter; furthermore, the targeted megayacht customers for this project have very heavy carbon footprints, from construction through use - something directly opposed to Rockland's (and the State of Maine's) legislated efforts to begin to address the extremely adverse impacts of climate change;

(2) impact on Rockland's and our regular visitors' use of the harbor: will there continue to be guaranteed public access to the Boardwalk regularly used both by visiting tourists and year-round residents? will 200 foot yachts block harbor views which are a main draw for the tourism that sustains Rockland?

(3) impact on the harbor - how disruptive to the harbor's use will construction of the proposed expansion and its ongoing operation be? will the existing channel have to be moved or otherwise impacted? how many local moorings will be impacted and how? what about our public docks?

(4) impact on safe use of the harbor - several years ago a megayacht broke through its moorings in the Portland harbor during a storm, damaging itself and other boats and dock fixtures; just this week, during the "bomb cyclone" nor'easter a fishing boat and sail boat were yanked from their moorings and pushed onto the rocks; do we really want multiple 200-foot long disasters-in-waiting in our harbor when major storms are more common than ever?

(5) impact on the character of our community - Rockland is a city in which artists and art enthusiasts, local business owners, restaurateurs, fishermen, boat builders, factory workers, service workers, young families and retirees all live and enjoy what our community has to offer together; we are proud to be an overwhelmingly "year round" city where folks settle and live all year, not just

dropping in to visit from away. Do we really want or need to "graduate[d] to a higher level of prestige" as a recent article in The Free Press described the potential impact of SHM's proposed project? How would becoming a ultra-high class yachting "destination" benefit the majority of our community? In my view, it will not.

Your agency's decision on SHM's application will have a greater impact on our city and wider community than anything undertaken here in many years. The bottom line, because of the foregoing concerns and more, I ask that you delay in making a final decision on SHM's application until a transparent, thorough investigation of all potential impacts of this proposed project - environmental, economic, cultural, and more - has been conducted, its results have been thoroughly reviewed and considered by all those with a stake in the outcome, and the public, especially but not only those of us living here in Rockland, have been informed of those results and have had time to understand the short and long-term impact of this proposal on our lives and community and been able to fully express our views on the same.

Thank you,
Laurence Anne Coe
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