

MacNeil, Jami

From: MacNeil, Jami
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2021 10:47 AM
To: Rosemary Willson
Subject: RE: SHM Rockland, LLC's Natural Resources Protection Act permit application (#L-20386-4P-P-N)

Dear Ms. Willson,

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)
Environmental Specialist III
Bureau of Land Resources
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
(207) 446-4894 | jami.macneil@maine.gov

From: Rosemary Willson <rosewillson@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 12:13 PM
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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SHM Rockland, LLC's Natural Resources Protection Act permit application (#L-20386-4P-P-N)

Dear Jamie MacNeil,

As a Rockland resident, I am in strong opposition to the planned 'Safe Harbor' marina to service 'mega yachts' in the central section of our inner harbor.

This was a proposal originally presented in our city council chambers a few years ago by an organization called 'Yachting Solutions', and it was not received well by our community. Low and behold, just a couple of months ago it is revealed that the plans are going forward through a corporate conglomerate and are at state level. This is not a fair, democratic process, and as a community we have many unanswered questions and concerns.

Rockland stands to lose one of our greatest attributes, which is the beauty, simplicity and accessibility of our inner harbor. We lose it to outside corporate interests which apparently have little concern for the well-being of our environment or community.

If this project goes forward, residents and visitors will no longer be able to gaze out at an open harbor, to see the breakwater, lighthouse or distant islands, but rather a wall of multi-storied, ostentatious, floating, fiberglass mansions (the so called 'mega yachts') serving the personal wealth of relatively few individuals. At the 'Yachting Solutions' marina this past summer we have already witnessed such monstrosities.

To what depth has the Maine DEP examined the impact of 'Safe Harbor' plans on our harbor, town, and community? Or is the power of money and the prospect of short-term gain barreling the project through without due consideration? What are the environmental impacts which will affect us financially, socially and psychologically?

What are the risks of 'bunkering' large amounts of fuel to provide for these huge yachts? Where will the fuel station be? Will these vessels release their waste while docked in the inner harbor? Already in the summer months, I have often seen an oily film on the surface of the water at high tide.

Are the rising sea levels attributed to global warming being considered? What is the sense of such a project given predicted tidal swells; submerging breakwaters, piers and coastal land? How does this project serve us in a long-term vision of the future?

I speak for the Great Blue Heron who stands so still and beautiful on the rocks of Rockland's inner harbor, fishing for food. I suspect there will be no more 'safe harbor' for it to return to next summer, once the dredging begins. I write for all that silently disappears as we allow individual greed, excess and short-term vision to destroy our environment and community in the name of 'progress'.

I ask Maine DEP to please come to your senses and halt this project.

Sincerely,

Rosemary Willson
22 Masonic Street
Rockland, ME 04841
rosewillson@icloud.com