

MacNeil, Jami

From: MacNeil, Jami
Sent: Monday, November 08, 2021 8:08 AM
To: Carol Sloane
Subject: RE: I object to the transformation of Rockland Harbor

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 deadline for public comments on the application closed on November 4, 2021. The Department anticipates issuing a decision on the project within the next few weeks.

Your comments will be added to the file and will be considered during the review of the project.

Sincerely,

-Jami MacNeil (she/her)
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Maine Department of Environmental Protection
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From: Carol Sloane <carolawam@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, October 30, 2021 8:00 AM
To: MacNeil, Jami <Jami.MacNeil@maine.gov>
Subject: I object to the transformation of Rockland Harbor

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Dear Jami

Rockland Harbor is charming and inviting because it is clean and undeveloped.

There are many reasons why it could be developed, but filling the water with docking structures and mega yachts is not a good choice. Making it a destination for cruise ships is not a good choice either

'Might does not make right'.

Money does not buy the right to transform a landscape.

Large boat activity will bring inevitable pollution, discharges, and fueling accidents are not avoidable. (I note that mention of a large fueling operation is in the application)

The rush to approve this project in order to qualify for the Boating Infrastructure Grant by September 2022 puts pressure on you to make a decision in favor of Safe Harbor.

However there are many incomplete parts of their application.

1. Older evaluations and applications for use of the Harbor do not apply to today's global situation of rising waters and increasing tidal activity. When the Breakwater is now often under water at high tides, it is evident that things have changed.

2. Surrounding wetlands will be impacted, and due to the rising waters, this will impact downtown and the sewer system in a sizable way. Dredging, and then docks and structures and large boating activity in the Harbor will reduce the ability for tidal action to support wetland function in the area. (see Wetland Function- Value Evaluation Form)

3. Provisions for fuel spill accidents are not sufficient to protect the Harbor and nearby beaches.

4. There is no guarantee that once this Marina is in place it will not expand into its original proposed footprint, and fill the Harbor with transient boats.

I realize that the economic value of development is a big draw to the Town tax base.

There are other ways, more innovative and appropriate ones to consider, but they do take invention and forward thinking, and they are not on offer at this time.

Is there a way to make good use of the climate changes that are upon us? Our waters are so vulnerable, but have so much to offer us if we employ them wisely.

Mega Yachts, Marinas and entertainment for the 1% who can afford this indulgence is not a good choice for Rockland at this time.

Please do not allow this proposal to go forward, ever.

Thank you for reading my letter

Carol Sloane

Rockland, Maine