

February 6th, 2013

To Mr. Ken Collette
Hearing Enforcement Officer

My name is Clem Bellairs, Owner of Stamford Boats and have more experience servicing Stamford boaters and their needs over 40years. Having served thousands of boats owners, I am very confused how someone could take a working boat yard, pay a company which is already in Connecticut to relocate, get a \$115 million dollar tax grant that they don't have to pay it back to put them on a piece of valuable boating property? Property bought by a developer knowing it was zoned for a working boat yard and continues to do this, pardon the pun something sound fishy. There is only one ramp in Stamford to haul boats out either for service or emergencies. This dock is for Stamford residents to launch their boats and also it's for an emergency for the coast guard, marine and fire units. As we speak there is no dock there due to Hurricane Sandy.

So if this application goes through, boats that are disable or in distress will have to be towed thru Stamford Harbor around the break wall and no matter what the weather its dangerous. There should be a working boat yard with a ramp on the east or west branch and should have been for years. Also to put these boats in the water to West Beach where there is poor lightning, if there is lighting, most of the time there isn't.

Also towing boats by land passing the 205 Magee site, to the public launch, presents another issue with traffic, the trees, and wires have to be raised and trim. People now are driving in the center of Shippan to avoid these obstacles so their radar, antennas, canvas tops don't get destroyed. Has this issue ever been brought up?

Secondly the biggest problem with their new location is this property is behind the hurricane wall! The old location wasn't. So the amount of boat traffic going thru the hurricane gates is already congested and their have been accidents like the one in 2012 that the barge hit Harbor House marina on the East Channel. If a storm approaches and the Hurricane Wall gates have to be closed, how do you get to that marina, you can't. Putting a marina that's NOT a working boatyard on the East Channel will increase the boat traffic, adding to that the barges coming down the channel etc the wait to get thru will be forever. You can forget about enjoying your Sunday afternoon!

If a developer can do this in Stamford what's next? Now I hear they're putting a rack system for 192 boats averaging 30 ft. and storage on this Magee Ave site is quadrupling the boat traffic? All these boats have to be launched or at least sometime will need the ramp at West Beach did anyone think of this? This is dangerous and incompetent. Someone is not thinking of families enjoying their boating season instead there is alot more then boating involved here.

Are there no investigations going on here? Is the developer just dictating to the Stamford residents what's going happen? Why not allocate the previous boatyard back and restoring it as such. I guess that wouldn't fit into their wanna be plans. Stamford's marine history and the 14 acre site make it the most viable site.

Regards,

Clem Bellairs
Owner
Stamford Boat & Motors
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