

March 24, 2015

Dear Mayor and Assembly members:

I am writing to comment on the Haines harbor expansion project. Significant work has been accomplished on the project to date, with sufficient detail now for public comment.

I have three primary comments:

**Save the Memorial Park:** The project proposes to deposit dredged material on the waterfront, thereby saving \$400,000 in disposal costs. This proposal would add three acres of parking, reducing our beachfront area and surrounding our Memorial Park with parking. Moving the Memorial Park to another location would cost an estimated \$500,000. The project is already over budget by an estimated 1.5 million dollars (not including moving the park).

**My recommendations:**

Apply dredged material up to the proposed boat ramp (reference the attached map). This will increase the parking area by perhaps 1 1/2 acres, leaving the Memorial Park and adjacent beach untouched.

If placement of dredged material on our waterfront saves us \$400,000, then placement of half of it would still save us \$200,000, as well as save our Memorial Park, our view and some of our waterfront.

A private party has proposed to collaborate on the project with the Borough by disposing of some of the dredged material on his property at the same or lessor cost than the contractor's (if it benefits the community). That proposal could reduce the cost of dredging disposal while also providing additional boat parking, additional boat repair area, and a new enlarged Canal Marine.

**Review Operational and Maintenance Costs thoroughly:** Take time to determine if the harbor expansion is sustainable for the long term. Often operational and maintenance costs can exceed expectations because they are often overlooked at the project proposal phase.

**Provide for reasonable public review and comment:** Insufficient time has been allowed for public review and comment as required by law. We now have some (not all) cost estimates and enough detail for people to envision the proposal and make needed comments. Waiting until

the 95% level will cost this project if major issues are revealed later, so encourage public participation now and allow at least two weeks for this.

**SUMMARY:**

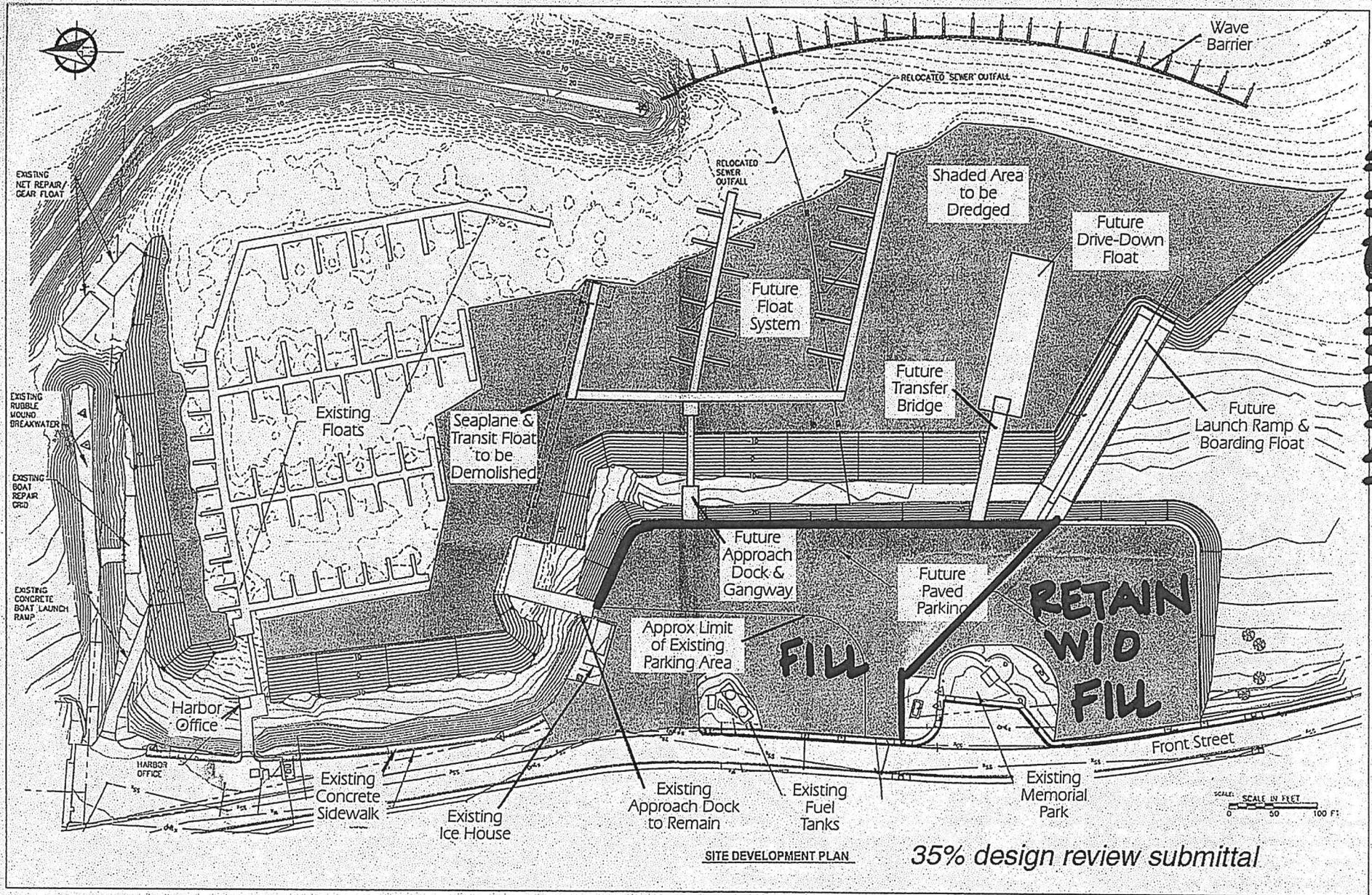
- Collaborate with private party for disposal of dredged material.
- Provide for public comment as required by law.
- Retain our Memorial Park and adjacent beachfront.
- Reduce the size of the proposed parking area, especially since there may also be private space available in the future.
- Use Tourism dollars to buffer the Memorial Park from the parking area, adding board walks, benches, and landscaping to enhance the area.
- Include a board walk or trail with benches and landscaping in the proposal. The Comp Plan includes a future trail leading from the cruise ship park to Picture Point.
- Keep the harbor expansion project within budget rather than relying on competitive bidding or Borough funding.

Please consider these points. We need a harbor expansion project and waterfront that satisfies the needs of the entire community, not those who moor or work on their boats.

It is community waterfront, it is a community harbor and it is a community Memorial Park.

Thank you for your considerations.

Diane La Course  
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ATTACHMENT

The 35-percent design plan for the Small Boat Harbor expansion project submitted by PND Engineers.

# Harbor plan would add 3 acres of parking to waterfront