

Lisa Turner

From: Bradford Boss <bradfordrboss@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 25, 2020 5:18 PM
To: Lisa Turner
Subject: Re: Raso Public Hearing Amended Schedule

Dear Lisa:

After being able to finally see where the proposed Oyster Farm of Perry Raso is proposed to be, I cannot honestly object to it.

Accordingly, I withdraw my wish to Comment even though in my opinion with 60 Oyster Farms in R.I. now, I question the need for another one.

Secondly, Mr. Raso admits to harvesting over one million oysters per year and his restaurant is now occupying a third floor, he should be able to stay with his current farm.

The above information was gained from a URI Publication and also states the Oyster farms in R.I. have to be careful to avoid over growing/saturation of the farms.

Brad Boss

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 12, 2020, at 6:28 PM, Lisa Turner <lturner@crmc.ri.gov> wrote:

All: Please see attached Raso Schedule Amendment. Thank you!

Lisa A. Turner
Office Manager
Coastal Resources Management Council
Oliver Stedman Government Center
4808 Tower Hill Road; Room 116
Wakefield, RI 02879
401-783-3370



Virus-free. www.avg.com

<Amended Raso Hearing Schedule 11-12-2020.docx>

Lisa Turner

From: Tony Sousa <anthony.h.sousa@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2020 11:44 AM
To: Lisa Turner
Cc: Perry Raso
Subject: Re: CRMC Raso Subcommittee Hearing letter

To: CRMC Raso Subcommittee Hearing c/o Lisa Turner

From: Tony and Kathy Sousa, 19 Windward Road, S. Kingstown, RI

We write on behalf of, and in favor of, Perry Raso's plan for additional aquaculture in Segar Cove in Potter Pond.

Perry lives in our community; his life's work is here. His proposal includes the benefits of economic development for the state, as well as environmental benefits to the pond. We all now know how oysters-all shellfish, in fact-help remove excess nitrogen from water. An adult oyster, for example, can filter up to 50 gallons per day.

Perhaps "Save Potter Pond" should be Perry's catchphrase, rather than those living on the pond who are opposed to his plan.

We've often seen Perry reach out to our community, including helping organizations like Welcome House and the Johnnycake Center, and providing fresh food through his restaurant during the difficult times of the current pandemic.

Finally, we believe strongly that his aquaculture proposal for Segar Cove comes down to character and trust, and over the last ten years that we have known him, Perry Raso has proven to be a very caring, honest individual. We trust that his plans for Potter Pond are well thought out and will prove, ultimately, to be in everyone's best interests.

Respectfully submitted,
Tony and Kathy Sousa

On Wednesday, November 18, 2020, Lisa Turner <lturner@crmc.ri.gov> wrote:

Mr. Sousa: Email is fine sent to me directed to Subcommittee members. Thank you

Raso 201712086

From: robert stockley <bobandvalarie@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 6:47 PM
To: raso201712086@crmc.ri.gov
Subject: Oyster beds

The installation of oyster beds in Segar cove is one of the most reprehensible projects to be served up to the public in quite awhile !! To give one person the ability to ruin the recreational use of that pond is inconceivable! It is a travesty to the public who should have the right to our recreational areas !! If Raso wants the beds let him place them by his property on the other side of the pond !! But he dare not ruin his pond front or his wealthy neighbors!!!

It not only steals public space , but causes a safety concern as anyone turning that corner, be it boating or water skiing, or any other activity could get hurt or possibly killed running into his beds !!! It's absurd and unconscionable to let this go forward!!

And as far as myself, I use that spot for my clamming. I have a commercial license and need all the places I can find to do my work!! I can not see the governmental agencies allowing this to happen as it's not for the greater good . The only way I can see this happening is in a dark office with a stuffed envelope being passed over as in the old days !! Let's see who has integrity !!! We the people vote for you and should be represented by you , not one guy who wants too much of our space for his greedy desire!!!

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Matunuck Oyster Farm
November, 17, 2020

To Whom it may concern,

We have known Perry Raso since 2009 when he opened Matunuck Oyster Bar. Over the years that we have frequented the restaurant we have noticed nothing less than a professional compassionate person who is always involved in every aspect of his restaurant and oyster farm.

He treat all his patrons and employees with genuine respect.

The success of his business and brand is, in my opinion, a direct result of his hard work and dedication, as well as his passion of what he loves.

When we moved on to Potter Pond late summer 2018 and were so excited to be able to be in an area of Rhode Island that is so representing of the state. We thoroughly enjoy watching the Oyster farmers heading out daily (no matter what the weather) to harvest their shellfish.

The employees are quiet and respectful as they proceed with caution on the water at all times.

I have also watched Perry take daily rides to study the new designated area in which he wishes to farm.

He is very committed to the aquaculture and quality of the water in Potter Pond and is often seen alone or with help walking the flats and waters edge cleaning up any debris after storms or tidal changes.

As someone who looks directly at the current farm I feel in no way does it have a negative impact on us or our property.

Michael & Lynne Kaesmann
74 N. Pointe Lane
Wakefield, RI. 02879

Raso 201712086

From: Lynne Kaesmann <lkaesmann62@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 5:12 PM
To: Raso201712086@crmc.ri.gov
Subject: Matunuck Oyster Farm
Attachments: Letter to CRMC for Matunuck Oyster Farm.docx

Raso 201712086

From: edb222@aol.com
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 1:56 PM
To: raso201712086@crmc.ri.gov
Cc: edb222@aol.com
Subject: Raso Subcommittee

Dear Roso Subcommittee,

I understand that the Raso Subcommittee Hearing is in discussion regarding the Potter Pond Area.

I spent many summers as a young boy in the area, and I still vacation and visit friends in the area with my family.

I have great concern about creating a new farm in those water-ways, and jeopardizing the opportunities the public will have to continue to enjoy the area. My understanding is that the area is too small to handle a new farm, thus creating a danger in navigational routes and loss of much of the area.

I hope you will take the concerns, of both the locals and visitors to the area, in not approving the farm rights.

Sincerely,
Robert M. Weiss

Robert M. Weiss
4 Deerpark Drive
Amawalk, New York 10501
Cell: (914) 649-7764
Home: (914) 245-0088
E-mail: edb222@aol.com

Raso 201712086

From: diweiss@aol.com
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 12:01 PM
To: raso201712086@crmc.ri.gov
Subject: Raso Subcommittee, Additional Comments

To Whom It May Concern:

In regard to the Raso Subcommittee Hearing, I have been made aware of the current situation being discussed about the Potter Pond area.

Many of my friends and I - from the NYC area - have vacationed in that area for many years. In fact, we went to summer camp there several years ago.

I am very concerned about the idea of creating a new farm in those water-ways, and jeopardizing the opportunities we've had to swim and do boating there. My understanding is that the area is too small to handle a new farm, thus creating a danger in navigational routes and much loss of its use.

Please recognize our serious concerns. I do not want to look elsewhere in the New England area for vacations and fun.

Thank you.

David Weiss
New York City

Raso 201712086

From: Kaila Mattera <kaila.mattera@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 14, 2020 10:22 AM
To: raso201712086@crmc.ri.gov
Subject: Raso/Segar Cove Project

I OPPOSE the Raso/Segar Cove Project. --
Best,
Kaila Mattera

Raso 201712086

From: McLaughlin, James B <James_B_McLaughlin@KeyBank.com>
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 9:21 AM
To: jwillis@crmc.ri.gov; bgoetsch@crmc.ri.gov; raso201712086@crmc.ri.gov
Subject: Raso Subcommittee - CRMC File No. :2017-12-086

I have been a resident at 73 Westcote Drive, which is on Potter Pond, for the past 13 years. Over these years, my family and I have immensely enjoyed water activities on Potter Pond such as kayaking, canoeing, stand up paddle boarding and boating. I am unable to join the public hearing, but am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Segar Cove Farm (whether for oysters, scallops or any other shellfish) or any other farm that may be proposed for Potter Pond. While the existing oyster farm and the Matunuck Oyster Bar have been a welcome addition to the area, any further expansion will substantially detract from the ability of the public at large to enjoy Potter Pond. This is a scarce public resource, and as such I oppose this proposal, which will benefit an individual at the expense of many.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim McLaughlin
james_b_mclaughlin@keybank.com

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127 Public Square, Cleveland, OH 44114

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Raso 201712086

From: fineline.1@juno.com
Sent: Friday, November 13, 2020 5:38 AM
To: raso201712086@crmc.ri.gov
Subject: Potters Pond expansion request

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to voice my opposition to the expansion of Perry Raso's aquaculture lease into Segar Cove (Potters Pond). I fish this area, especially in the spring, when the "worm hatch" is occurring.. During this time, I observe many other people kayaking, canoeing, fishing, or just transiting this area. This cove is enjoyed by many people year round, and should not be restricted for private use only. I don't believe that Segar Cove is the proper location for the expansion of an aquaculture lease.

I have no objection to the aquaculture industry, indeed my son manages an oyster farm here in RI. What I do object to is how Mr. Raso waits until the summer residents are no longer about to pursue his expansion request. His attempt to do the same approximately three years ago was defeated when public knowledge was brought to bear.

This is "Potters Pond", not "Perry's Pond"...and Segar Cove should remain in the public domain.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan Lema
Charlestown, RI

Raso 201712086

From: almon@almongunterexperience.com
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 4:58 PM
To: raso201712086@crmc.ri.gov

I OPPOSE the Raso/Segar Cove issue.

Almon W Gunter Jr
CEO/President
Almon Gunter Experience
PO Box 194
Jacksonville Florida 32234

Phone: (904) 803-1917
Email: almon@almongunterexperience.com
Web Address: www.almongunterexperience.com

I strongly oppose the Segar Cove oyster expansion proposal. **It poses a safety hazard to recreational boating activity in the pond.**

Over the last 60 years my family and I have had a boat moored in Segar Cove. We continue to enjoy sailing, rowing, kayaking, waterskiing, tubing, fishing, crabbing, quahogging and swimming.

As the population in South County has grown over the years, so has the boating activity on the pond. On any summer day, the pond is shared by fishermen, quahoggers, kayaks, paddle boards, canoes, sailboats, pontoon boats, jet skis, and powerboats pulling tubes, waterskis, and wakeboards.

There are more types of boats using the pond now than ever before. On a hot summer's day it is common to have many types of watercraft on the water at the same time. It can get crowded and become difficult to maneuver safely while motoring at speeds necessary to pull someone on a waterski, wakeboard or tube. To lose access to 3 acres of water due to the oyster expansion project will only make matters worse.

Unlike power boats, sailboats can not maneuver wherever they desire, as they are limited to the direction of the wind. When the wind is behind the sailboat, it can easily move downwind in most any direction. The daily wind direction in Segar Cove is from the ocean (South East). So it is easy to move downwind from the mooring area (South) in the direction of the proposed site (North). Once the sailboat has sailed to the end of the cove where the proposed site is situated, the boat has no option but to turn upwind and head back to where it started. In order to do this, it must tack (move from side to side at 45 degrees to the wind.) The proposed site narrows the space for sailboats to cross from one side of the cove to the other in order to return upwind.

I took my boat out this summer and drove past the bouys that were set to delineate the proposed expansion project. It will be near impossible for more than one powerboat to pull water-skiers around the perimeter of the pond at the same time. If there are kayaks or other non-motorized boaters in the area, maneuverability while pulling a skier becomes even more difficult and potentially hazardous. If sailboats (which have limited tacking ability) are also in the waters adjacent to the proposed site, maneuverability of power boats with skiers in tow will be further limited.

Pulling a person behind a motorboat requires more space. The tow boat should stay at least 100 feet from docks, the shore, roped areas, swim areas and other boats. Operators must avoid pulling skiers close to fixed objects or other vessels. When a skier does not have enough space the risk of danger is exponentially increased.

At the widest part of the cove, there is 812 feet. If the proposed site extends out 215 feet, that reduces the space to roughly 600 feet. Powerboats are required to stay 100 feet away from anything so that leaves 400 feet of space. If there are two boats, they must stay 100 feet from each other thus leaving 300 feet to maneuver.

So a typical day of tubing or waterskiing involves people zipping in and out of the wake from side to side at high speed. As the skier/tube rounds a turn, and travels outside the wake their speed dramatically increases. The location of the proposed expansion site reduces an operator's turning radius at a critical turn area in the cove. The cove is much narrower than 812 feet wide at the northern most part of the cove. On a busy day in the pond, there may be three or more operators pulling people behind their boats. There will not be sufficient space to safely maneuver under these circumstances. If you add in a jetskier, a sailboat, or a pair of kayakers caught in the middle of the mahem, it is a recipe for disaster.

The pond will continue to attract more and more boating enthusiasts and the public needs access to MORE water not less.

As one of the many taxpayers in this area I do not think that the desire for one individual to profit at the expense of everyone else is in the best interest of the community.

I oppose the expansion proposal.

Vince Mattera

Raso 201712086

From: Vince J. Mattera <vmattera@earthlink.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 3:28 PM
To: raso201712086@crmc.ri.gov
Subject: RASSO Opposition Letter
Attachments: Segar cove Opposition.pdf; Untitled attachment 00159.txt

Please include my letter of opposition to the proposed oyster expansion project.

Vince Mattera

Raso 201712086

From: rbergonzi@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 1:12 PM
To: raso201712086@crmc.ri.gov
Cc: info@savepotterpond.org
Subject: Raso Subcommittee Hearing - Expansion of Oyster Farms in Potter Pond

To whom it may concern:

We live at 2464B Commodore O. H. Perry Highway, which fronts on Potter Pond. As there is a subcommittee hearing on Nov. 12, 13 and 17, we would like to oppose the expansion of oyster farms by Perry Raso on Segar Cove in Potter Pond. Mr. Raso already has what we consider to be a substantial oyster farm on Potter Pond. He also, as you may know, has a very successful restaurant, and a marina across from the restaurant to help with additional parking.

In any case, we enjoy boating on the pond as well as clamming, etc.. Our children and grandchildren also enjoy the waters of Potter Pond. This expansion will mean more area taken away from the public for recreational purposes. We mostly stay in Potter Pond and don't want to have the area we use made smaller.

We have watched Mr. Raso's restaurant expand exponentially over the years and it seems that the oyster farm has gotten bigger. His farming and events such as weddings on his residential property at the opposite end of the pond were growing although no events have been held lately possibly because of the virus. We don't think that this is necessary to add to Mr. Raso's business efforts. It would seem that, if this were granted, further expansion would be requested as seems to be his business model.

Whether or not more expansion would be requested, it is obvious that this currently requested expansion would substantially lower the value of the waterfront properties near it. We would ask the members making any decision to consider whether or not you have waterfront property, if you would want to have an oyster farm in front of your property. If we were looking for a waterfront property, we would most likely pass on that or expect to pay much less than similar properties without an aquiculture farm in front of it and people working there as necessary. Would you send your children or grandchildren out to swim there?

We would like to save Potter Pond for the public recreation that should be allowed there. Please take our comments into consideration.

Thank you,
Mary and Rino Bergonzi

Raso 201712086

From: DiBiase, Christine <CDiBiase@apslaw.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 1:58 PM
To: 'raso201712086@crmc.ri.gov'
Subject: Raso - Public Comment FW: Public Comments- Friday

Please add the below e-mail to the public comments in support of this matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christine DiBiase

CHRISTINE M. DIBIASE, ESQ.

[WEBSITE](#) | CDIBIASE@APSLAW.COM

1 Citizens Plaza, 8th Floor, Providence RI 02903

401.274.7200 | fax 401.751.0604



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Begin forwarded message:

From: Stephen DeMetrick <sdemetrick@gmail.com>
Date: November 12, 2020 at 9:42:00 AM EST
To: Perry Raso <perryraso@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Public Comments- Friday

Hi Perry, I do remember talking to you about that application a few years ago. I would definitely be interested in supporting you. Unfortunately I have meetings today and tomorrow, so there is no way to make the zoom call for public comments. Is there an avenue to write a letter in support? I read through their report, the only credible reason they have is that it might disrupt waterskiing, which maybe happens once or twice a year in that cove. And they could easily ski in Sycamore cove or just go up the pond where everyone skis and tubes anyways. And as far as pond access goes, that farm would not impact peoples ability to pass through from any of the public access points or ability to kayak and enjoy the area in other ways. They must have worked really hard to find that one waterskier!

Thanks,

Steve DeMetrick

DeMetrick Housewrights

401-378-6257

Raso 201712086

From: Bob Mahoney <bobmahoney@realestateri.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 1:00 PM
To: raso201712086@crmc.ri.gov
Subject: Sugar Pond Russo

Good Afternoon

I've owned a home on the pond since 2004. (80 Peninsula Rd)

Myself and many, many other enjoy boating and kayaking. In the area in question.

We've lost much area already when he built and expanded the first oyster farm.

I am AGAINST any additional development on the pond.

It should remain for the beauty and enjoyment of the people.

Please consider this note in your decision.

Regards

Bob Mahoney

401-487-0303

Raso 201712086

From: Craig Rollins <crollins10@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 12:51 PM
To: raso201712086@crmc.ri.gov
Cc: Craig Rollins
Subject: I oppose the Raso/Segar cove issue

I can't believe we would allow the interest of one to out weigh the interest of the many. One persons financial greed should never come between the many who should have the same right and access to the water. It is spoiling the environment.

Craig Rollins
401-338-1856

Raso 201712086

From: Noah Rollins <yamaha1251@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2020 12:36 PM
To: raso201712086@crmc.ri.gov
Subject: I oppose Raso/segar Cove issue

I oppose Raso/segar Cove issue

Coastal Resources Management Council
11/6/2020

My wife and I have a property on the Village @ Potters Pond and we intend to retire on our property within 2 years. We both adamantly oppose the leasing anymore of our beloved Potters Pond to Mr.Raso. The area he is asking would be the size of approximately 48 tennis courts. The Pond is for the people to enjoy and Mr. Raso is a businessman who cares for himself not all of us who enjoy the beauty of the Pond and wish to continue, sailing, paddle boarding, boating and most important sitting and looking at nature at its best, not more acres of traps for the profit of one individual.

I trust you all will consider the opposition to this crucial matter as the water belongs and is for the people.

Thank you for your consideration.

Arthur + Louise Mahar

Arthur & Louise Mahar
689A Succotash Rd
South Kingston RI
02879

607 423 0044



Re: CRMC File # 2017-12-086
Perry Raso
629 Succotash Road, Wakefield RI 02879

To Whom It May Concern:

We purchased our home in 2018 at 689L Succotash Road Wakefield RI 02879. We have been enjoying the use of the pond and all that it has to offer. Unfortunately, there already was the oyster farm located within the pond that does obstruct our views, but it also has made it somewhat dangerous to out there on a kayak, which so many of us do.

The Oyster Bar not only has their commercial work boats zipping through the pond with no regards to the people who are in the water and or on the water boating or kayaking and enjoying the pond. In recent years they have now added a tour which they charge for to show customers the oyster farm. This adds to the commercial traffic in an area that was originally used by boating families.

I can't see how adding an additional (3) acres of oyster farming would benefit the community. It would only make things worse. They would be running their commercial boats more often than they already do. The only benefit would be for Perry Rasco and not the thousands of families who actually use the pond for its intent. Adding acreage to this site would ruin the landscape and disturb the many activities enjoyed on a daily basis by all residents of this state, my wife and I oppose Mr. Raso's request to expand his business.

Thank you for your consideration in the opposition of Mr. Raso's request.

Patrick & Deborah Grimaldi
689L Succotash Road
Wakefield, RI 02879



Lisa Turner

From: Ben Goetsch <bgoetsch@crmc.ri.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 7:31 PM
To: Lisa Turner
Subject: Fwd: Raso Subcommittee Hearing

Benjamin Goetsch

Coastal Resources Management Council

Aquaculture Coordinator

Oliver Stedman Government Center

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mark Latham <mlatham@gmail.com>
Date: November 10, 2020 at 5:55:08 PM EST
To: jwillis@crmc.ri.gov, bgoetsch@crmc.ri.gov
Subject: Raso Subcommittee Hearing

Dear Mr. Willis and Mr. Goetsch,

I am writing to you in regards to the upcoming meetings regarding the Raso Subcommittee Hearing. Forgive me, but I am a bit confused about the process and timing of the various days of scheduled Zoom calls scheduled on this matter. I sent an email earlier addressed to raso201712086@crmc.ri.gov. In this email I asked for the opportunity to be provided a spot so that I may speak at some point in time. The response I recieved indicated some general information about what appears to be the general timing of the start of the zoom calls (1:00 EST on Nov 12 and 13) but did not appear to provide a time slot for my spot.

Am I to understand that I just log in to the link provided on the Zoom instructions and that at some point during that afternoon / those afternoons - that someone will indicate when it might be my turn to speak? Are there more specific Zoom meeting credentials needed / or that may be provided? Is there a specific time set aside or assigned for public comment? Is there a manner or way in which I may be able to submit photos or videos (I'm searching my files..), or perhaps submit a written statement to present for the consideration of the committee prior to the meeting? Will there be a way to comment, discuss, converse, communicate during the meeting?

I would appreciate your thoughtful consideration and then subsequent direction regarding these issues.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

Mark Latham
(214) 616-9595

Mark Latham
(214) 616-9595