

PO Box 8 ~ SAUNDERSTOWN, RI 02874 ~ 401-783-6277 www.narrowriver.org ~ nrpa@narrowriver.org

May 20, 2024

Coastal Resources Management Council Stedman Government Center, Suite 3 4808 Tower Hill Road Wakefield, RI 02879-1900 SENT Via Email

RE: CRMC 2023-11-073 1 Lafayette Avenue South Kingstown

To Whom It My Concern:

The Narrow River Preservation Association (NRPA) is designated by the RI Rivers Council as the "state-designated Watershed Council" for the Narrow River (Pettaquamscutt Estuary) Watershed. In accordance with General Laws of Rhode Island Section 42-28-8, NRPA is provided the opportunity to evaluate and comment on proposed actions so that any resulting comments may be considered by the responsible agency. The designation also gives legal standing to NRPA for appearances and to present testimony on behalf of Narrow River and its watersheds before local and state public bodies. As you may be aware, NRPA, with assistance from CRMC, DEM, area Harbormasters and the Mettatuxet Yacht Club, organizes an annual "Navigating the Narrow" educational program to promote safe and respectful use of the resource by boaters, kayakers, and paddle boarders.

In this capacity, NRPA supported the concerns previously raised by the South Kingstown Waterfront Advisory Commission regarding this proposal in a letter dated February 17, 2024. Since that time, NPRA met with both the Waterfront Advisory Commission and the applicant. The revised plan now on file with CRMC adequately addresses our concerns by reducing the length/configuration of this dock and removing the reference to an "approximate channel". We recommend CRMC approve the current design with a variance on water depth as a reasonable balance between environmental considerations and public safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

Craig Wood, NRPA Vice President





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February 17, 2024

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In this capacity, NRPA supports the concerns raised by the South Kingstown Waterfront Advisory Commission regarding this proposal and believe the proposed length/configuration of this dock will adversely affect boat traffic based on the following:

- The plans suggest the dock terminus is some distance from the "approximate channel" as
 demarcated on the plan. We have been repeatedly informed by the Harbormasters of South
 Kingstown and Narragansett that there is no recognized navigation channel within the River and
 NRPA is very concerned about the precedent set should this plan be accepted which indicates there
 is one.
- Further, the "approximate channel" as shown, does not accurately represent the actual course of boaters who are forced to navigate closer to the shoreline to avoid the ever-expanding flood tide shoal north of the Middlebridge.
- In addition to navigating closer to shore, boaters operating in this location are generally on a plane at speed to avoid running aground in the shallows.
- The proposed length/configuration protrudes further into the waterway than existing docks to the north and south.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Sincerely.

Craig Wood, NRPA Vice President

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COASTAL RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL