

## Penobscot Bay Report

Saturdays 12-1 p.m. on WRFR

Hosted by Ron Huber. For people who enjoy, work on and care about Maine's biggest bay. While relaxing to the natural and human sounds of Penobscot Bay—its waves, winds and wildlife; its foghorns, fishing craft and ferryboats—get your weekly update on the doings of local, state and federal agencies and interest groups grappling with overseeing the bay's commercial and recreational fishers and hunters, aquaculturists, coastal developer wannabes, and its licensed and unlicensed dischargers.

Hear recordings from recent bay-related meetings and public hearings, interviews with retired and working sea captains and readings from 19th century marine scientists exploring and documenting the state of the bay and the Gulf of Maine before the twentieth century's mechanized fisheries, petrochemicals and other advanced technology changed them forever. And learn how to become a Penobscot Bay Report radio correspondent!



Penobscot Bay Report  
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Dear Mr. Huber,

Thank you for your interest in the SHM Rockland Submerged Lands Application process. The Bureau intends to post any updates regarding the review process on the website. Comments made by the public, while part of the public record, and available by request, are used to inform

(continued on page 2)

## Bought, Bullied, Bamboozled? Why is the Council Doing Nothing?



This photo above shows the view this morning from Rockland Harbor Park. It shows our public landing and harbor. On the right you can see the end of the pier that was recently acquired by Safe Harbor Marina LLC, the world's largest marina conglomerate.

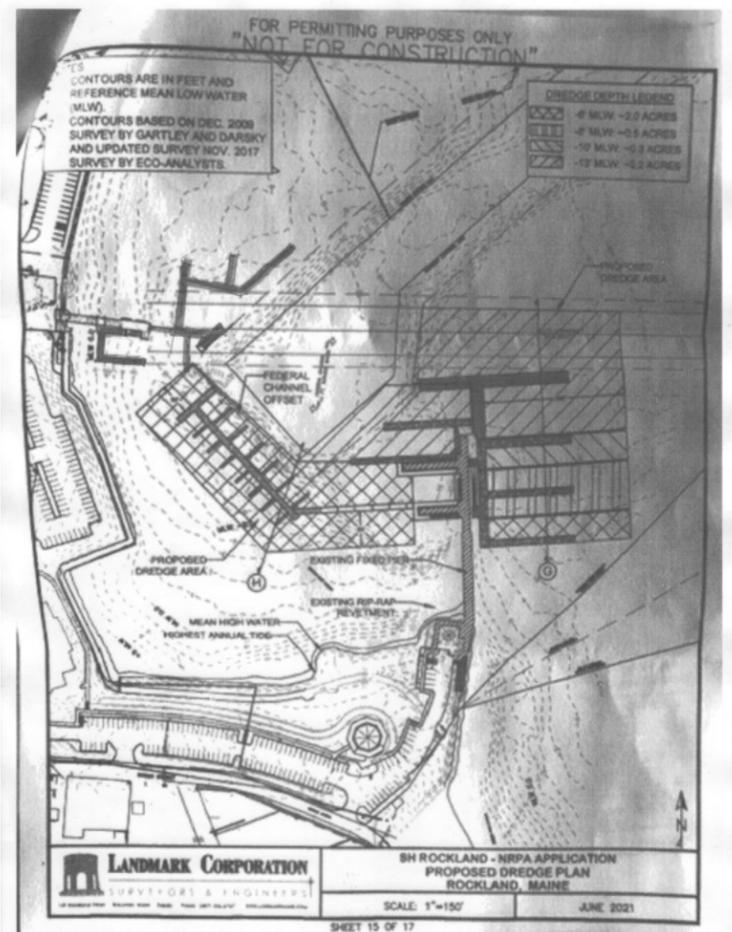
Safe Harbor Marinas LLC was acquired last year for \$2.11 billion by Sun Communities (SUI), a real estate investment trust valued at \$22 billion. With their very deep pockets they are now moving to quick-step the City to accept the addition of huge concrete floats directly in front of the Rockland Public landing - to be a parking space for mega yachts. **The view you see in the photo will be completely obscured by the mega yachts that will be parked on these new floats.**

The plan submitted by our new Mega Corp landholder deceptively shows only the public landing pier and fails to show the public floats that are accessed from that pier. These floats we haven't added to their drawing, below. You can see that their new mega expansion dwarfs our public floats and butts right into them, severely restricting access, and effectively taking over the territory.

Though it is completely within our power and our right, the City has no plans to do anything to stop this takeover of our public waterfront.

We have only until October 15 to act. Between now and then the City Council has meetings scheduled for the next three Mondays evenings, September 27, October 4 and 11. Public comment periods are at the beginning of each meeting, at 5:30 pm. If we go to the meetings, perhaps we can convince them to put a resolution on the agenda for October 11. All the Council needs to do is to tell the Bureau of Parks and Lands that the proposal unreasonably interferes with public access (see letter to Ron Huber, at left) and the proposal will almost certainly be denied. If our Councilors do nothing, they will have failed in their duty to protect our interests and rights.

---Publius





Hi Joe, Hope all is well, I am fine in the shadows. For your consideration is this photo of a notice of the passing of Mona Shafter put up by a neighbor after Rita put up flowers to honor her memory. Thanks, Robert Lichtman

(Letter to Ron Huber, continued from page 1)

the decision whether to issue, in this case an amendment to an existing lease and a dredging lease, or whether to deny them. The Submerged Lands Program does not post those comments as they are sent directly to us via email and letter and not in a public forum. There will be a summary of the comments received in the findings when they are issued.

Comments that would impact the Bureau's decision to issue an amendment to the lease and/or dredging lease are limited to the following, as noted in our Notice for public comment:

"Before the proposal may take place, the applicant must obtain a lease or easement from the Bureau. A lease or easement may be granted for the project if it will not:

- unreasonably interfere with customary or traditional public access ways to, or public trust rights (fishing, fowling, recreation, and navigation) in, on or over the submerged lands;
- unreasonably interfere with fishing or other existing marine uses of the area;
- unreasonably diminish the availability of services and facilities necessary for commercial marine activities; and
- unreasonably interfere with ingress and egress of riparian owners."

If you would like to comment on the project, please contact me via email or in writing at:

Submerged Lands Program  
Bureau of Parks and Lands  
22 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

Regards,  
Karen Foust, Submerged Lands Coordinator

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The Buzz is composed and printed by the Fellows of The Old School at the WRFR studios, 20 Gay Street, Rockland. Email: [wrfr93.3@gmail.com](mailto:wrfr93.3@gmail.com)

## WEEK SEVENTY-NINE

### COVID-19 RANDOM NOTES WHILE SHELTERING IN PLACE

By Phyllis Merriam

This morning, after the crows finished their breakfast, I looked out the kitchen window to see a big brown rat eating the leftovers. Gross out! I either have to stop feeding the crows or set out traps. An exterminator, who was called to a neighbor's house, reported there are rats in every Rockland neighborhood and in homes and businesses. Residents just don't realize who their "free renters" are...

Today was the fifth bicycle crash by an adult professional cyclist, among a group of doctors, who didn't know how to cross RR tracks safely. No amount of high-end gear will protect a bicyclist from preventable injury. Of all the cyclists, who've crashed on the RR tracks over the years, all have been adults. Kids know how to cross safely. A kind neighbor drove his truck with the bicyclist and his bike to our local ER.

Fresh Off The Farm had strawberries today from Beth's Farm. What a late season treat in September. ABC will be closed next week for maintenance, so I went there to fortify myself. The bakery was packed with tourists in a line that went out onto the sidewalk where more customers filled the tables. Rockland businesses are doing very well with much needed seasonal revenue.

Last week's Random Notes had a spelling error Spellcheck wouldn't notice. In my observations of local males' sartorial and hygiene, I said it must be "a dessert" out there for young women, when I meant "a desert." Or, dependent upon one's preference, it might be sweet. When Napoleon was due home from a battle, he supposedly wrote to Josephine, "Home in three days. Don't wash!"

Just before Saturday evening's downpour, the moon's lower edge could be seen at the ragged hem of grey clouds over The Head of the Bay.

Enjoying my first coffee of the morning on the patio, a Monarch Butterfly circles my head on its way south in its seasonal migration.

My friend and neighbor, Anne, who has abundant flower gardens, gave me bright orange Japanese Lanterns, or Chinese Lanterns (*Physalis alkekengi*) that I like to use in fall dried flower arrangements. I used to find them at farmer's markets but have had no luck during these Covid years. Anne's gardens are full of lush liveliness and raucous color that reflect her spontaneity, while mine are low maintenance, somewhat spare and formal, reflecting my stiffer personality. After the flower faded, one of the lanterns had the delicate skeletal network of beige veins, like a see-through sculpture. If you snip the lantern's flower, when they're still moist, the edges curl up revealing the single red seed, so they look exactly like little lanterns.

More Americans have died of Covid-19 and its variants than died in the 1918 - 1919 flu epidemic. New Maine cases keep rising every day. Social media traffic abounds with false information about the virus, vaccines and the monoclonal antibody Regeneron. Even an anti-vaxers relative, who got Covid, is seeking Regeneron, which cannot prevent covid transmission, and costs \$2,100 per dose compared to free vaccines. Seven southern states and Texas hit hardest by low vaccine rates are using up 70% of the federal supply of Regeneron used to treat hospitalized Covid patients around the country. With no end to Covid, its variants and vaccine deniers, I find myself getting anxious again. I bypass all reason and go to the most serious possible scenario.

