



H1B

Bristol Harbor Master

TO: Bristol Town Council

FROM: 
Gregg Marsili
Bristol Harbor Master

CC: Steven Contente
Bristol Town Administrator

DATE: May 1st, 2023

SUBJECT: Bristol County Elks Lodge No. 1860 Letter Dated April 4th, 2023

I am providing information to clarify statements made by members of the Elks Lodge No. 1860 at the Town Council Meeting on April 19th, 2023. In addition, I will give my recommendation to the Elks Lodge for 8 slips in the Town of Bristol's Marina.

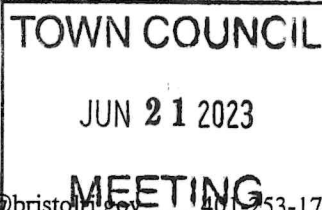
There were two statements made by members of the Elks Lodge made at the April 19th, 2023, meeting.

1. The Elks Lodge is requesting eight (8) slips inside of the Town Dock due to the reflective waves that bounce back towards their docks from our wave attenuating concrete float.

The number of Slips in accordance with CRMC Assent No. B2003-04-030 only allow four (4) boats are authorized to dock at this facility. This information can be found in the Water Quality Certificate dated June 26th, 2003. I have attached the Assent to this memorandum.

2. In addition, a statement was made by another member of Elks Lodge that we did not adhere to the policy found on page 14 of the Harbor Management Manuel paragraph D and E.

D. Construction of future docks must not degrade water quality, natural flow, or hydrodynamics, impact natural resources and habitat, or compromise the Town's existing mooring fields.



Gregg Marsili Bristol Harbor Master

gmarsili@bristolri.gov

401-253-1700

E, Requests for future dock expansions and new dock requests should be carefully reviewed weighing all potential impacts, including but not limited to; economic development, water quality impacts, water flow dynamics, the local watershed, aesthetics, navigational safety, storm safety, and the State's Public Trust responsibilities.

The Town went through a thorough permitting process with the State of RI CRMC, DEM, National Marine Fisheries, and the Army Corp of Engineers. The permitting information is attached. In Section 2 of the State permitting package a Narrative Project Description was prepared and submitted on our project by PARE Engineering, page 18 of the narrative Section 1.3.1 (O) Municipal Harbor Regulations

The proposed project is in keeping with and meets the requirements of the approved Harbor Management Plan (draft updated 2019) for the town of Bristol. The Plan explicitly notes that the Church Street Dock is slated for expansion and provides information regarding the extensive wait list for dock space and the need for expansion.

I have attached a preliminary wave Analysis from PARE Engineering. The preliminary wave determination is just looking at the boating season from 2022. When the wind direction is out of the South, Southeast, and Southwest it does cause slight wave reflection. PARE Engineering has not determined what distance it takes for the reflected wave to disseminate. The Results of this preliminary wave analysis show the location of the Elks Dock is considered "moderate" pre and post installation of the Town's concrete wave attenuator.

In my professional opinion as the Town of Bristol Harbormaster and as retired Chief Perry Officer in the United States Coast Guard who served as the Aids to Navigation Unit's Officer in Charge. I have observed over the past 15 years North and South Side of the Elks Lodge anytime the wind direction is South, Southwest, or West in the excess of 10 knots the sea state will build providing a challenging environment to dock a vessel. At the Coast Guard Unit there is 80 feet of Concrete pier that is attached to pilings using heavy duty brackets. This dock was manufactured by SF Marine, this is the same manufacture of the wave attenuating dock at the Church St. Marina. The Coast Guard's dock is not a wave attenuating dock but a large heavy dock to minimize the wave action in the harbor. The Elks lodge dock is a wood timber dock that is approximately 20 years old and appears to have never had any significant repair work or replaced. I have attached pictures of the Elks Lodge docks. A timber dock has a life expectancy of approximately 15-20 years in favorable condition. In the conditions that exist in Bristol Harbor during the summer months while the dock is in the water, I would consider these extreme conditions. The normal summer winds blow out of the Southwest almost every day in the summer creating a 1-2 swell or wave that lasts until Sunset most days. The swell of wave directly hits the Elks Lodge dock. Prior to installing the concrete wave attenuating docks the Town had the same problem with our wooden docks, the constant need for repair or rebuild would occur annually.

At the Town Council meeting on April 19th, 2023, when asked if the Elks were going to continue to have their docks in the water if spaces were granted at the Town dock, they said they would continue to be in the water and used. In accordance with the Elks Assent for their commercial marine facility only 4 boats are allowed to be tied up on a temporary basis and within the dock use rules of the Elks Lodge. I recommend the following the Elks Lodge should

determine at what sea state the docks should not be allowed to be used to prevent damage to both their docks and members boats. The current dock should be reengineered to have the proper dock for their commercial marine facility.

In addition, a memorandum of understanding should be written between the Town of Bristol and the Elks Lodge allowing up to four members to make a reservation and pay the Bristol resident's current rate. The rate for a Bristol resident is \$5.00 per hour up to 4 hours currently. If boats are tied up to the Elks Lodge docks, then the use of the Towns transient slips will not be allowed, because the conditions are favorable for use of their facility. A member requesting the use of the Towns Transient docks will have to call and make sure space is available and the maximum number of boats of Elk's members aren't already at the Town's transient slips.

STEVEN CONTENTE
Town Administrator

LC 5-4-23