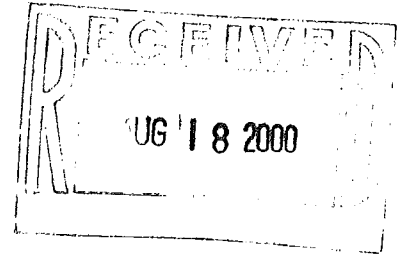


NORTH COVE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING  
AUGUST 16, 2000



The North Cove Historic District Commission opened its Public Hearing on August 16, 2000 at 7:30pm in the library of the Sheffield Street School. Commissioners present were: Janet Foisie Chairman, Henri David Vice- Chair, Donna D. DiBella Clerk, Carol Maxwell, Kathy Dubuc and alternates: Leighton Lee and David Grey. The minutes of the previous meeting were read. After two typographical corrections were made, the minutes were accepted. The Clerk read the legal notice.

Speaking first on behalf of Cliff and Joan Rimkus and their proposed dock at 148 North Cove Road was Attny. Tom Cloutier of Cloutier and Domnarski located at 29 Elm Street Old Saybrook. Attny. Cloutier quoted the regulation and reminded the Commission of their duties as they relate to structures and aesthetics only. He stressed that the Commission should not be concerned with any environmental issues.

Gary Sharpe, of Sharpe and Mc Donald Assoc. Old Saybrook presented next on behalf of the applicant. A review of the most recent changes to the proposed dock was conducted. The three major changes were noted: the deletion of the boat lift, the length from 105' to 67' and the pilings approximately 7.5 '(2' to 2.5' above the dock). He also referred to assessor's map #32 which showed the existing and proposed docks on North Cove Road. Mr. Sharpe reviewed and showed photos taken of the existing docks. He stated that in many cases the pilings were much higher than the proposed dock and that one dock in particular had a floater of 648 square feet. He stressed the materials to be used on the proposed dock would be the similar to those presently existing. Mr. Sharpe submitted the lengths of the docks that presently exist in North Cove. He stated that the reason for his measuring each dock was to dispute a letter dated April 7, 2000 submitted to the Commission by Barbara Smith and Bill Phillips. A letter from the Army Corps of Engineers in favor of the project was given to the Commission. An aerial view dated March 29, 1990 was added to the record. The question was asked when were all the other docks built. It was stated that many if not all were in before the NCHDC came to be (1985) therefore being grandfathered in. Several references were made to the Cowles dock at 175 North Cove Road. Mr. Sharpe stated he felt that the length of this dock is far more of an eyesore than the proposed one. The applicant is prepared to install a pulley system 35' long to accommodate his boat. At the end of the proposed float at low tide, the amount of water will measure 6". Stringers will prevent it from sitting in the mud flats. The question of how much water will be at the end of the pulley was asked. Mr. Sharpe responded 1-1.5 feet at low tide.

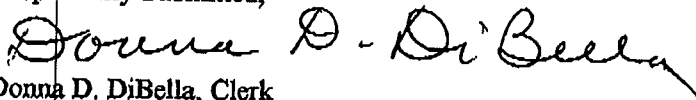
One person spoke in favor and ten spoke against the erection of the Rimkus dock. Andrea Harney of 70 North Cove Road stated her support since she feels all the docks are visible from certain locations on North Cove Rd., specifically where the pulley area is. Walter Osborne of Cromwell Court suggested a moratorium on docks and specifically cited environmental issues. He feels that the environment and aesthetics are closely related. Hal Cowles of 175 North Cove Road questioned how far away from the channel would the dock come. Perhaps this is a DEP issue. Louise Tietjen of 69 Cromwell Place read a letter written by Betsy Shurts who was recently hospitalized. Her memories of the pristine cove were noted. Campbell Hudson an Attny. With Hudson and Kilby of Essex spoke. Several neighbors opposing the application have retained him. He spoke to the Commission and quoted the guidelines and ordinance governing the NCHDC. He referred to the responsibility of the Commission as it pertains to "settings and places". He quoted two court cases. He ended by stating his intentions to attend the DEP Public

Hearing when a date is set. John Price an abutting property owner spoke to setting a precedent stating that the lot they share is only 102' wide. He owns 50' and Mr. Rimkus owns 52'. Lincoln Thompson spoke to the reason he purchased his home 18 months ago. Before buying, he checked with the ZBA and was told that nothing could be built on the lot. He did not realize that ZBA does not control docks and that a dock could in fact be built there. Dick Tietjen of 69 Cromwell Place is concerned about the fact that the property is only 52' wide. It does not compare with the exception of one perhaps with all the other docks built on much wider properties.

The final two speakers were Bill Phillips and Barbara Smith of 200 North Cove Road. Bill spoke to several environmental issues and the rights and responsibilities of the individuals proposing the dock. He showed a photo at low tide of the mud flats, which exist. Barbara's presentation included panoramic photos of existing docks showing length, elevation and water level. She stressed the setting and that all but one dock is in the back yard of owner's homes. Her presentation was aimed to show that the proposed dock was not like all the others as Mr. Sharpe contends. This tiny inlet is very different from all others, which oversee large spans of the cove and river. The Public Hearing was adjourned at 8:55pm.

The private session was opened at 9:00pm. Donna D. DiBella made a motion and unanimously passed to deny the application without prejudice based on substantive changes in nature and architectural appearance of the structure that may result in a request by DEP. Members voting were J. Foisie, Henri David, Donna D. DiBella, Kathy Dubuc, and Carol Maxwell.

Respectfully Submitted,



Donna D. DiBella, Clerk