



Seldovia Gazette

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Thursday, April 26, 2007

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Letters to the Editor

Schneiders dock proposal . . .

. . .

Dear Seldovians!

Because my dear sister had a heart attack I have been in California but Jim has returned to Seldovia. He has related to me that our proposed dock has become a topic of conversation/discussion in our absence. Because of this, I would like to use this forum for clarification so that the "guessing-game" of what we are planning can halt and be replaced by facts. Our application to the Corps of Engineers (which includes diagrams, our Use intent, other pertinent information plus a copy of our application to the State Coastal Commission [who notifies all other interested State agencies]) has been posted for several weeks giving anyone an opportunity to ask questions, comment on this project to the Corps of Engineers or to request a public meeting to discuss the application.

To date no one in Seldovia has tried to contact us either by telephone (I've been checking our msgs) or by mail to ask any questions of clarification from Jim or myself. However the Corps of Engineers has called and spoken to Jim regarding a letter received from Dick Wayland objecting to our dock. We do not know if this was prompted by Mr. Carluccio going before the City Council and stating his objection or if it was just Dick's personal objection. Since we receive a copy of all correspondence relating to our application, we will be getting a copy of Dick's correspondence so we can perhaps find out then what he objects and what his concerns are. We feel it would have been more professional had he contacted us first if he was writing to the Corps of Eng. on behalf of the City. If you are reading this, Dick, we really don't mind discussing this face to face if you, or anyone else who may have questions.

To clarify the issue for those of you who are wondering why we want a dock I will explain as simply as possible. We would like to build a small personal dock approx 10' X 20' for our own use. Actually my use ... I want somewhere I can tie up my kayak that will have easy access for me rather than taking up space at the city dock. Neither ourselves, or anyone else will be using the dock

to tie up a fishing boat! A canoe? another friend's kayak? maybe. We also think it would be cool to sit closer to the water and maybe throw in a fishing line.


Our property extends out into the water way approx 60' beyond our deck into the water, the two pilings we propose putting in to secure the dock will be set back from our property line approx 20' and they will go dry long before low tide. Because of this they will not present a navigational hazard. The tour boats turning around between our proposed dock and the citie's dock will still have ample room to negotiate the turn and other boats coming into the harbor will not be impacted or crowded in any way. These facts have already been determined and agreed upon by the Corps of Engineers, the Department of Fish and Game, Dept of Environmental Protection and all other State agencies involved in the approval process. All the approvals from the involved State Agencies have been returned to the Corps of Engineers and copies of same forwarded to us.

We have been told by the Corps of Engineers and by the State agencies involved, that if we wanted to have a "free" floating dock, and it was determined that it would not be a navigational hazard, that no actual permit would be required since those agencies that control that water way do not require a permit for that type of dock. Not just us, but any property owner located on the harbor could have a free floating dock as long as it did not impede navigation and would be removed during the winter months. We want the 2 pilings for added stability of the dock and that is why we are going through the permitting process. To our knowledge there is no city ordinance/guidelines covering floating docks, "free floating" or secured. We believe that this is because the Corps of Engineers ultimately controls whether or not we get approval. We are, however, still going before the city Planning and Zoning Commission once we receive our approval to ask for their input. We had hoped to get that boards input before we completed this process but we were informed we could not until we had the Corp of Eng approval. That is unfortunate and seems a bit backwards. Perhaps as a result of this process they might think about changing their requirements to make this type of permit process smoother.

Hopefully this has answererd some questions that some of you may have not only about what we are proposing but where we are in the permitting process. If there is to be a town meeting I would hope that it would not be scheduled until I can return to Seldovia (which will not be until May 5th) and that Jim and I along with the town will receive ample notice of when this meeting is to be held. Jim and I invite those of you who support our dock request to attend this meeting (if and when there is one) to lend us your verbal and/or written support.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to make you aware of what we have planned and taking the time to read my letter.

Happy Schneider
231 Main St, Seldovia
234-8081.

(Click on button below)	Special Interest Forum: From time to time, topics of discussion will come up that are not a good fit for the Letters to the Editor section . . . usually due to things like the length of the letters or the need to post responses sooner than once a week on Thursday. Click the "Forum" button to enter this section. If you have a topic that you would like started, please let us know.
	No Forum Currently Running

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