

Marine Patrol Letter of Support for Wabanaki Docks and Moorings

July 1, 2025

Site evaluation for an aggregate mooring field in combination with dock space

Property owner and applicant: Mark J. Salvati, Manager, Wabanaki Campground Conversion, LLC

135 Shore Drive North, Bridgewater, NH

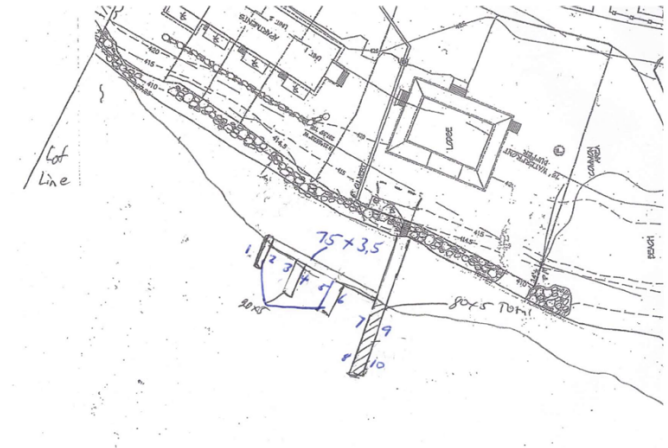
Application number – note noted

RMS number- 2025-001847

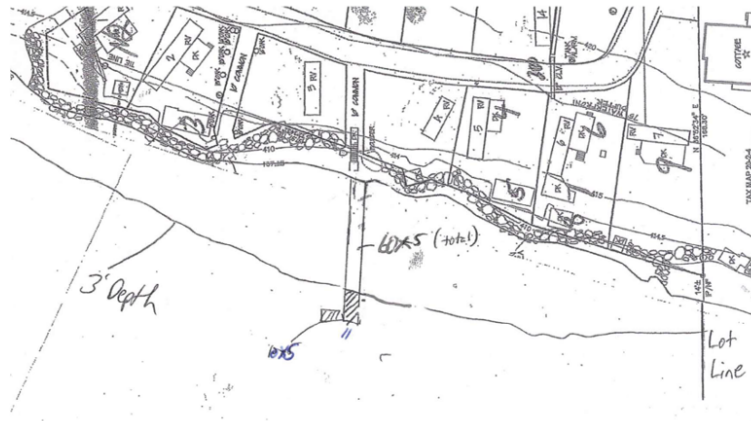
Date of application: March 27, 2025, received by MP Office Staff

Date of visits: 6/27/2025

The campground has been in operation since 1962 with an increasing number of moorings and a variety of seasonal docks throughout the long unregulated tenure of the campground. In recent years, the property has been approved for 31 moorings in the aggregate mooring field. The mooring field has a water depth ranging from 3 to 6 feet, with a sandy bottom and approximately a dozen scattered boulders that pose a minor hazard to boats piloting to/from moorings. These boulders are marked with small buoys during the boating season, and moorings have been placed to minimize risk to boats arriving/departing. Mr. Salvati had been maintaining a few docks, which he felt should be grandfathered, and allowing campers to use them. Based upon complaints from one abutter, he has pulled all docks and is working with DES to formalize an allowable dock configuration. Mr. Salvati provided me with a copy of his current dock submission to DES and I forwarded copies of this plan to our mooring coordinator, Brenda Chisolm. This plan was developed during a meeting between Mr. Salvati and a representative from DES. Mr. Salvati is confident that DES will approve the plan but has concerns that the additional 11 dock spaces that the plan creates will impact his current mooring field when considered by NH Marine Patrol. I have included images of the proposed dock plan below.



MORE...



I support the plan for this combination of DES approved docks (11 berths) combined with the current level of 31 moorings approved by NH Marine Patrol in 2024. With the 11 additional slips/berths available on the docks, Wabanaki Campground would have a capacity for 42 guest boats providing improved access to guests without the risk of trailering boats and the increased potential for invasive species migration. There is no boat ramp on the property, and no publicly available boat ramp in the vicinity. This capacity is well absorbed by the available space and frontage of the property (780-feet). The docks are to be constructed with floating 10-ft plastic composite sections that would have minimal bottom environmental impact. The northern most dock provides a degree of safety buffer between boats in the mooring field and the campground's swim area. The additional docks would have little negative impact on the environment, the view of abutters, vessel navigation in the area, or the recreational use of the waterbody by the public.

I support this application for 31 moorings in combination with the pending plan for docks.

Frank Balantic
 Frank Balantic
 Marine Patrol Officer – MP 904
 31 Dock Road
 Gilford, NH 03249
 603-293-2037