



Resolution

06-14

Kent Narrows Boat Basin

WHEREAS, the Queen Anne's County Commissioners recognize that the Kent Narrows has historically been the home of the County's commercial fishing industry as a principle harbor to fishing vessels and seafood processing companies; and

WHEREAS, the commercial fishing industry has helped to form and define Queen Anne's County's economy and culture; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners recognize that this marina is necessary for the continuance of an irreplaceable fleet, and that this harbor is the last, largest refuge thereof; not to be commercially exchanged; and

WHEREAS, the public marina at Kent Narrows Boat Basin has historically been home to much of the county's working fleet; and

WHEREAS, the County accepted \$317, 644.84 in public monies from Department of Natural Resource Waterway Improvement Funds for expansion, improvement, and maintenance of the Kent Narrows Boat Basin from 1969 to 1994; and

WHEREAS, each of these public grant monies required County assurances that the Kent Narrows Boat Basin be maintained "as a public facility " and saved in good condition in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, the County Attorney rendered the following opinion on April 18, 2005, stating that "Commercial watermen and water-related commerce have long been an important part of the Queen Anne's County economy. They are a part of our heritage, which County government can legitimately act to protect. As commercial marinas generally are reluctant to rent to watermen, since their hours and operations are somewhat incompatible with typical recreational boating, it is entirely appropriate, in my opinion, that the County provide boat slips for their use on a preferential basis as a means of insuring their continued viability"; and

WHEREAS, in May 2005, in the interest of preserving the commercial fishing heritage of Queen Anne's County and ensuring the watermen's livelihood now and for future generations, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board unanimously voted to grant preference to commercial watermen on the slip renters' waiting list; and

WHEREAS, The Queen Anne's County Commissioners do hereby affirm that it is indeed in the public's best interest to continue to accommodate the County's commercial fishing fleet; specifically in the heritage area historically linked to that industry;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Queen Anne's County Commissioners are, hereby, committed to naming this facility a "Heritage Harbor", preserving it safe, and granting preference to commercial watermen as the Queen Anne's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has defined them, and that all monies expended for renovations in 2006/2007 have been accounted for in the slip rental fee increases of 2004. It is the intent of this Board not to raise the fees for this project.

ATTEST:

Margie Houck
Executive Assistant

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

Joseph F. Cupani, President
Benjamin F. Cassell
Richard A. Smith
Gene Ransom, III
Michael S. Koval