

**VILLAGE OF NORTH PALM BEACH
WATERWAYS BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MAY 22, 2018 4:00 PM**

I. MEMBERS:

Jerry Sullivan, Chairman
Bill Hipple, Vice Chairman
Bruce Crawford, Secretary: excused
Ed Preti
Robert Werner, Member
Paul Bartlett 1st Alternate: excused
Kelli Preti 2nd Alternate

II. GUESTS:

Andy Lukasik, Village Manager; Deborah Searcy, Council Member
Bob Gebbia, Lisa Gallagher and Colby Briggs: Residents

III. MINUTES APPROVAL: The March 20, 2018 meeting minutes were approved unanimously

IV. EXCUSAL OF ABSENT MEMBERS: unanimously approved as noted above

V. ELECTION OF SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR UPCOMING YEAR:

Members voted unanimously to retain the same slate of officers in current positions.

VI. MATTERS BY THE PUBLIC: None

VII. OLD BUSINESS: None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS: The Village Manager requested that we have a discussion of some sections of code based on ideas presented to him by Council Member Deborah Searcy. The main topics included the number of vessels moored behind a house within the Village of North Palm Beach, restrictions on size of vessels and location of mooring pilings in NPB lagoons (canals).

After much discussion of the various issues it was agreed that no changes were necessary at this point in time, and that is the opinion of and advice from this board. However, it was noted that some properties have boats moored at them that are obviously renting dock space on a long-term basis. Also, some are brokerage boats and not owned by the tenant or homeowner but rather tied into a business. In these cases, Code enforcement needs to be more proactive with addressing those code violations. This issue will be easier to enforce once the wording of who is legally allowed to use the dock behind a residential home is clarified This board has recommended that the wording of the ordinance be modified to allow the “owners and/or tenants” and their family members to use the dock behind said home.

The pilings are currently based on the body of water that they are located in and vary somewhat in distance from the shore or seawall, as well as the percentage of the waterway they are permitted to extend into. This is based on the safe and free passage of vessels and yes sometimes one boat may have to stand by while another is allowed to pass, but courtesy usually prevails. Any concerns about overly large vessels appearing throughout the village was discussed and it was agreed that just the depth and width of said lagoons would limit huge yachts from all but some areas of the North Palm Beach Waterway.

Council Member Searcy brought up the subject of limiting the height of vessels allowed to be docked behind private homes within the village. She suggested limiting a vessel to two stories high, so that it would be screened from view by the home, which is currently limited to two stories.

As for concerns regarding the height of vessels, standing in front of many houses one cannot see the top of even a 60-foot mast, no less the superstructure of a yacht. Also mentioned was there are both one and two-story houses and the sight line would be different based on that as well as it would also be at high and low tide. This is an issue the Village should most probably not get involved in at present as it may be viewed as infringing on a property owners rights.

Board member Kelli Preti agreed to provide a list of addresses where the height of a vessel behind some houses may be deemed a problem, so that those specific houses can be viewed as examples of the issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.