

City of Hampton
Planning Commission
City Council

C/O Terry P. O'Neill
Director of Community Development
City of Hampton
Hampton, Virginia 23669

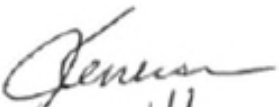
April 15, 2022

Re: Use Permit Application UP21-00003

We recently moved to Hampton, having made a substantial investment to do a historic restoration of a classic Victorian house on Victoria Blvd, near HYC. The attraction for us to move from a large waterfront home in Virginia Beach was proximity to HYC, and the HYC associated sailing and boating community. Another large factor was the ability to look from our porch to observe the activities at the club, and being able to see down to the water and enjoy the view. When I think of the attractive view and activities, I am not referring to cars in the parking lot. I am referring to being able to see down to the docks and loving the enthusiasm and activities of the junior sailors, especially the race days.

While presumably well intentioned, it seems that the Planning Staff have offered conditions that would impair that view, and might be considered somewhat draconian. We can look at shrubbery in any community in the region or state, and did not move here for that view obstructing opportunity. From our vantage point, or perhaps more accurately stated our view point, such a change would actually detract from the uniqueness of this historic neighborhood. Such a change would actually depreciate our investment in Hampton, and our enthusiasm for having made that decision.

Make no mistake, you are not making conditional shrubbery and other limitations to protect HYC neighbor's interests. Quite the contrary. We are vigorous supporters of the HYC mission, especially as it relates to junior sailing. We are even more vigorously opposed to any requirements for shrubbery and hedges along the western part of the property or along the borderline with non-objecting adjacent landowners. Please do not invoke our names or purported interests in your decisions.

John G. Kenerson M.D. 

Lisbet M. Hanson M.D. 

4607 Victoria Blvd, Hampton

April 19, 2022

City of Hampton
Planning Commission
City Council

C/O Terry P. O'Neill
Director of Community Development
City of Hampton
Hampton, Virginia 23669

Re: Use Permit Application UP21-00003

As the abutting neighbor and the most affected by the above proposed use permit, we would like to go on record as follows:

- Our understanding is that above use permit would allow Hampton Yacht Club (HYC) to use the property in support of its junior sailing programs, which includes storing boats that have historically been used for those programs on the property but does not include erecting structures to store such boats (i.e. boats would stored out in the open). We do not object to the property being used for this purpose and believe the junior sailing programs are beneficial to the community.
- Our understanding is that the HYC property to which the use permit pertains is currently zoned as Residential and will continue to be zoned as Residential if the use permit is approved. We would want to be notified, and have an opportunity to respond to, any proposed change to this Residential status.
- We do not object to the proposed fence on Bridge St. and a 20' leg extending from the fence on Bridge St. and along our common property line.
- We strongly object to the City staff proposed hedge along our common property line with HYC. Our understanding is that the proposed hedge would be 3-foot high and run along our common property line from the fence on Bridge St. to rear side of our house, including its porches. The primary reasons for our objection to the proposed hedge include:
 - The proposed hedge will block our access to the rear of our property as our existing landscaping extends to the common property line. We would not be able to walk from the front yard to the back yard.
 - A hedge on the property line would be too close to existing, well-established large bushes we have in our landscaping, would be visually unappealing and make maintenance of the landscaped area more difficult due to impaired access.
 - A hedge on the property line will impose maintenance requirements on our side without any offsetting advantages. If a barrier is to run along our property line, we strongly prefer it to be the 20' fence discussed above.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our opinion. In summary, we are supportive of HYC's use of the property for its junior sailing programs and do not object to fencing as outlined above, but we do strongly object to a proposed hedge being run along our common property line. Please feel free to contact me if needed at 757-869-3809 or at david.blackburn@earthlink.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Blackburn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Blackburn
Resident
609 Bridge Street
Hampton, VA 23669

April 19, 2022

Dear Hampton Planning Commission members,

HYC is not a commercial marina. I have examined the current Hampton Yacht Club (HYC) use permit application and the staff recommendations regarding it. As a former member of the Hampton Planning Commission, I am well aware of the effort and care and the very excellent work that goes into all the staff recommendations regarding any requested land use change.

I do have a couple of observations about this request. And, for transparency's sake, I am a member of the Hampton Yacht Club, and my home is 1 ½ blocks from HYC property at the end of my street.

First of all, the City's public policy LU-CD Policy 16 states the goal to "**promote public access, both physical and visual, to the water.**" Additionally, one of the statements in the Use Permit Conditions is that "**visual access to the water should be maintained.**" Yet, the Conditions also require a 3' high line of shrubs at the setback line and another one along the southern boundary. I cannot untangle this inconsistency. Visual access is highly desirable. I would ask the Planning staff to eliminate the requirement. It would be helpful to hear an explanation as to the arbitrariness of stating one thing and requiring another.

Please note that many of my neighbors have chosen to live in this neighborhood, as have I. This is particularly because of the proximity to HYC, the water, and the many sailing activities that take place here. A clear view of the water and the boats is what draws many people to live in and/or to walk through this neighborhood. I might add that there are no 3' tall shrubs obstructing the water view from any other vantage point on the HYC property, nor is that requirement in place for any of the downtown commercial marinas.

HYC has a long tradition of providing sailing instruction, classes, and various on-the-water sailing experiences for the Peninsula's youth. That tradition has ramped up significantly in the past couple of years as HYC has hosted various youth regattas right here, including national championships. My neighbors have remarked on the joy of watching young people – some of whom are local and some of whom are young sailors from all over the country – operating and maintaining their own boats. It is even more thrilling and satisfying to see this on the lovely shaded grassy area dedicated to this activity.

Screening off these views to people enjoying peaceful evening strolls through the neighborhood, sharing the excitement of watching adrenalin-fired up kids getting their boats ready for a day on the water, or simply being mesmerized by the boats bobbing and swaying at their slips – would be a tragedy.

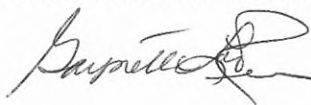
Please do NOT require HYC to screen off these wonderfully unique neighborhood sights!

Secondly, I think perhaps HYC made a small mistake in their application. They have stated that the operational hours are daytime. Apparently, the Planning staff took this to mean that the hours of operation should be from sunup to sundown. For some unknown reason, they equated this to the hours of operation for the City's public parks. There is no comparison. While the setting is parklike, it is private marina property.

Regattas are sometimes run in the late afternoon or evening and are planned to go well past dark. Additionally, Mother Nature can be fickle. One thing that happens on occasion is that the wind dies. For small boats with no motors, there is no way an ETA can be established guaranteeing that all boats will be back before dark.

Therefore, my recommendation is to leave the hours of operation unspecified. We especially don't want children and their parents to be locked either on or off the property, unable to reach each other at any time. Let HYC have the flexibility to schedule the youth events as responsibly as they schedule all their on-the-water activities.

Lastly, I must give you a small reminder – HYC has been a good neighbor and an excellent steward of its responsibilities to the neighborhood. They keep the property clean and tidy. Boat owners are required to move their boats off-site to do sanding, painting, and other maintenance work. Social events are orderly and timely. As I said at the beginning, HYC is not a commercial marina. Rather, it is a very positive neighborhood amenity.



Gaynette LaRue, 119 Linden Avenue, Hampton, VA 23669

City of Hampton
Planning Commission
City Council

C/O Terry P. O'Neill
Director of Community Development
City of Hampton
Hampton, VA 23669

RE: Use Permit Application UP 21-00003

Dear, Sir,

I am aware of the Hampton Yacht Club's current request for a marina use permit for a parcel on the Southeast corner of Victoria Blvd & Bridge St. My wife and I live at 4612 Victoria Blvd, directly across Bridge St. from the property in question. We have no objections whatsoever to the requested use permit.

One of the reasons we purchased this home was its proximity to the activity on the property across the street. My wife and I, as well as many other in the neighborhood, enjoy seeing the young sailors getting their boats ready for regattas. It is an additive feature of the neighborhood and should be allowed to continue unabated. Further, the training and sailing programs provide a benefit to Hampton City writ large.

We are not opposed to a fence on Bridge St. should the Hampton Yacht Club want to install one. We strongly object to the City Staff-proposed hedge along the 30-foot setback and along the Southern property line. A small (four-foot tall) fence will allow us and the other neighborhood residents to still have sightlines to the waterfront. A hedge will block the view of the water which is, in fact, counter to the city's "Historic Victoria Neighborhood initiative area which emphasizes maintaining views of the Hampton River." Additionally, the hedge would create an odd 'dead space' between the proposed hedge and fence. This would detract from the overall aesthetic of the property in question as well as the neighborhood.

The Hampton Yacht Club is an integral part of our neighborhood and we don't wish for it or the activities to be hidden or separated from the residents of Historic Little England. Thank you for your attention to this matter and taking the thoughts and feelings of the effected neighbors into account. In short, we encourage the city to approve Hampton Yacht Club's request as submitted without further encumbrances (e.g. requirements for structures, hedges, etc.).

Sincerely,



Jason Erbecker
4612 Victoria Blvd
Hampton, VA 23669
(760) 807-2767

City of Hampton
Planning Commission
City Council
c/o Terry P. O'Neill, Director of Community Development
City of Hampton
Hampton, Virginia 23669

April 19, 2022

Re: Use Permit Application UP21-00003

Planning Commission and City Council Members:

As a new neighbor of Hampton Yacht Club at 619 Bridge Street, I am aware of the club's current request for a marina use permit. I would like to make the following points with regard to the specifics of the permit:

- 1) I fully support issuance of the requested use permit.
- 2) The activities proposed promote youth sailing, which I am very supportive of. My children participate and my whole family thrives on the flurry of daily activity during the sailing season.
- 3) The proposed fence along Bridge Street is not objectionable to me, should the club decide to install it.
- 4) We object to the City staff required hedge along the southerly property line, and the hedge at the 30 foot setback line for a number of reasons including:

The setback hedge will create a strange series of landscaping features along Bridge Street that are not aesthetically appealing;

A hedge on the southern property line will impede the view of my junior sailors enjoying their chosen sport, and our view of other club activities. This long hedgeline is not desired by any of the neighbors and I totally fail to see the need for it at all.

Thank you for this chance to share my opinion. I encourage the adoption of the Yacht Club request with conditions as proposed by the club. I hope that the final outcome protects the ability of visitors and residents of our neighborhood to see and enjoy the sailing endeavors of our youngest citizens.

Sincerely,


Erin Gatling

City of Hampton
Planning Commission
City Council
C/O Terry P. O'Neill
Director of Community Development
City of Hampton
Hampton, Virginia 23669

April 17, 2022

Re: Use Permit Application UP21-00003

Planning Commission and City Council Members:

As a new, close neighbor of Hampton Yacht Club at 619 Bridge Street, I am aware of the club's current request for a marina use permit. I would like to state the following as it pertains to my interests in the neighborhood:

- 1) I have no objection to the requested use permit.
- 2) The activities proposed promote youth sailing, which I am very supportive of. My children participate and I enjoy watching the flurry of daily activity during the sailing season.
- 3) The proposed fence along Bridge Street is not objectionable to me, should the club decide to install it.
- 4) We object to the City staff required hedge along the southerly property line, and the hedge at the 30 foot setback line for a number of reasons including:

The setback hedge will create a strange "no man's land" between the fence and the hedgeline;

A hedge on the southern property line will impede the view of my junior sailors enjoying their chosen sport, and our view of other club activities. I particularly enjoy watching the sailing out of our house windows.

Racing sailboats is my passion in life and I wouldn't live in Hampton if it wasn't for the enviable location and hive of activity at the Hampton Yacht Club.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion and I encourage the adoption of the Yacht Club request with conditions as proposed by the club.

Sincerely,


Casey Schilling

City of Hampton
Planning Commission
City Council
C/O Terry P. O'Neill
Director of Community Development
City of Hampton
Hampton, Virginia 23669

April 19, 2022

Re: Use Permit Application UP21-00003

Planning Commission and City Council Members:

As a new neighbor of Hampton Yacht Club at 50 Marrow Street, we are aware of the club's current request for a marina use permit. The following points may help you understand more about my reasons for moving to the area:

We have no objection to the requested use permit.

The activities proposed promote youth training and educational programs beneficial to the community; and are part of the reason we moved here. We are excited to watch our grandkids in the club's Junior Program within easy walking distance.

We object to the City staff proposed hedge along the Southerly property line, and the hedge at the 30 foot setback line because the hedge will impede our enjoyment of the activity we see while walking in the neighborhood.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice our opinion. We encourage the adoption of the Yacht Club request as modified by the club.

Sincerely,



Susan and James Gatling

City of Hampton
Planning Commission
City Council

C/O Terry P. O'Neill
Director of Community Development
City of Hampton
Hampton, VA 23669

April 19, 2022

I am writing to express my support for the Hampton Yacht Club's Land Use Permit Application UP21-00003

In 2015 my wife and I moved to the Little England district of Hampton from Virginia Beach. We did this to be close to Hampton Yacht Club and all the activities associated with it. We built a new home on a vacant lot at 101 Columbia Avenue. The Hampton Yacht Club was the major attraction for us to move and is for most people coming into the neighborhood. Real estate listings in Little England almost always mention their proximity to the Club as a positive feature.

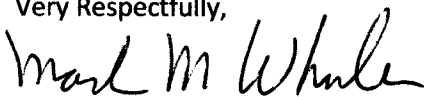
The junior sailing activity that takes place at the club is a wonderful thing. It is something that the neighborhood enjoys seeing and should be encouraged. The program has been flourishing in the past few years. It has become the place to be for young sailors from all over. The use of the grass lot is essential for the program to continue.

The view shed from Bridge Street for the neighborhood is important. Having a hedge along Bridge Street would severely limit the view of the Hampton River and all the wonderful youthful boating activity. The neighborhood wants to see this. Do not force the club to block this view shed.

Requiring a hedge between two property owners when neither want it makes no sense. Neither the Blackburns, the owners of 609 Bridge Street, nor the Hampton Yacht Club want a hedge down this property line. A hedge in this location would restrict the use of the property for both owners and increase the maintenance costs for both.

Please grant HYC the Land Use Permit as they have requested without over burdening it with unnecessary restrictions. Hampton Yacht Club has been a good neighbor to the community and will continue to be so.

Very Respectfully,



Mark M. Wheeler
101 Columbia Ave.
Hampton, VA 23669
757-581-0781
wheelsdown2018@gmail.com