



On The Narrows Marina
8137 S. Glen Lake Rd
Glen Arbor, MI 49636

Thursday, January 26, 2012

Open letter to the Glen Lake Community,

As most of you are now aware, On The Narrows Marina has submitted a permit to expand our marina with the Michigan DEQ. This permit application was required under Michigan law whether or not we sought an expansion or not. In working closely with the Michigan DEQ, it is our understanding that the permitting process has recently changed and we're doing everything required by Michigan law to comply with the permitting process. In anticipation of the filing requirement we retained Gourdie-Fraiser, a Traverse City based firm to survey our property and help guide us through the permitting process. The results of the survey indicated that our legal riparian rights were significantly larger than we'd originally thought.

On The Narrows Marina is owned and operated by the Thomas McCahill family, part of a much larger McCahill clan with long term ties to both Michigan and Glen Lake. Our extended McCahill family, which now consists of 56 members have been vacationing at Glen Lake since 1986 holding annual and semi annual reunions since we first fell in love with the lake, the town and community. We acquired the property from Jack and Marcie Ferris in 2008 and began our operations the summer of 2009, just when the state rebuilt the bridge! As most of you will recall, our first summer was rough given the bridge closure, the economy and the weather.

We have diligently tried to be good citizens of the community and are members of the Glen Lake Association and the Glen Lake Chamber of Commerce. Last Memorial Day we organized and hosted along with many local businesses our inaugural Veteran's Appreciation Weekend which successfully hosted three families of military veterans for the weekend. In honoring our veterans and introducing them to the wonderful resources of our community, many of you graciously contributed money, lodging, food and services. The military families the community hosted were so appreciative and we plan on making this an annual event.

Our objective in seeking expansion is to provide more opportunities for others to have access to the lake. We have a long waiting list from local residents seeking lake access for their boats. Most of our mooring customers are members of the local community and favor having boat slips as opposed to moorings. While we anticipated there would be opposing opinions, some quite legitimate and others self centered, the first step in the process is to comply with state law which we know will inevitably lead to a public hearing where we look forward to answering questions, addressing concerns and hopefully finding solutions that allow further access to a wonderful natural resource for Glen Lake residents, families and visitors.

Although we have requested a sizable expansion given the process, we intend to phase in these additional slips over time to meet our customer's needs while responsibly mitigating any issues which might arise. Clearly, no sane person or business would go through this process more than once!

As we understand the process, the first step is through the DEQ permitting. The DEQ can and most likely will require a public hearing, which we fully anticipated. Should the DEQ approve our application, the next steps will involve both the Glen Lake Township and the city. Clearly, there will be plenty of time to discuss and work with the township, city, and community to answer questions, concerns and make necessary modifications. All we ask is to keep an open mind and be civil. We recognize concerns and issues and will address them at the appropriate forum and time.

We understand what a tremendous and unique resource Glen Lake is. However, we believe its' a public resource and should be available to residents, families, and tourists in addition to those who own property on the lake.

As any responsible business owner, we acknowledge the community's interest must be balanced with private property rights. The significant capital investment and upgrades we made last summer into improving McCahill's Crossing, formerly the old dairy bar, should provide some level of comfort and evidence of our commitment to the community.

We look forward to a balanced and civil discourse with everyone through this process.

Sincerely,

Tom McCahill and family